

ATSUSHI
OHKUBO

02

FIRE FORCE



FROM THE
CREATOR OF
SOUL EATER

FIRE FORCE

ATSUSHI
OHKUBO

02





THE INFERNALS

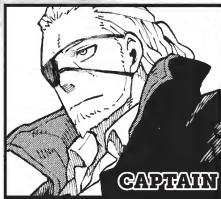
Born from the cryptogenic phenomenon of spontaneous human combustion (SHC), they have no self-awareness, and only wreak havoc until their lives burn out. The fire soldiers' mission is to uncover the cause of the Infernal outbreak and save humankind.



MYSTERY MAN

A mysterious man who crashed the Special Fire Force Rookie Fire Soldier Games. He trashes fire scenes and attacks fire soldiers.

SPECIAL FIRE FORCE COMPANY 1



CAPTAIN

A fire soldier who was at the scene of the fire that took Shinra's family when he was young. He commands the elite Company 1.



TAMAKI KOTATSU

A rookie member of Company 1. A girl with an unfortunate "lucky lecher lure" condition.

SUMMARY...

Shinra finds himself competing in the Rookie Fire Soldier Games with Arthur. But a mysterious man has invaded the building where the contest is taking place, and he claims to know Shinra's past! This man reeks of danger. What shocking truth will he tell Shinra about the fire 12 years ago?!

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL FIRE FORCE?

An organization formed to extinguish the flames of the Infernals and save their souls, as well as to rescue the people who live in fear of them. Its members come from three main sources—the Fire Defense Agency, the Holy Sol Temple, and the military—but in recent months, they've been getting more recruits from the academy. They are recognized by the blue fluorescent lines on their gear, and the general firefighters call them "Blue Stripes."

FIRE FORCE: SPECIAL FIRE FORCE ROSTER OF FIRE SOLDIERS

SPECIAL FIRE FORCE COMPANY 8



SECOND CLASS FIRE SOLDIER (THIRD GENERATION PYROKINETIC) ARTHUR BOYLE

The newest member of Company 8, he trained at the academy with Shinra. He walks the path of chivalry as the self-proclaimed Knight King, but according to Shinra, "He makes everybody think he's this smooth, silent type for not talking, but it's just 'cause he's stupid!" Apparently he is popular with the ladies.

CAPTAIN (NON-POWERED) AKITARU OBI

The popular and charismatic leader of the newly established Company 8. He has no powers, but uses his finely honed muscles as a weapon to accomplish at least as much as the pyrokinetics. Loves bodybuilding to an almost creepy extent.



WATCHES OUT FOR

TRUSTS

INDOUBT

WATCHES OUT FOR

TRUSTS

STRONG BOND

SECOND CLASS FIRE SOLDIER (THIRD GENERATION PYROKINETIC)

SHINRA KUSAKABE

Since being accused of using his powers to cause the fire that took his family, his face's habit of tensing up into a bizarre smile when he gets nervous has earned him the derisive nickname of "devil." He joined the Fire Force to achieve his dream of becoming a hero and saving people from the fear of the flames.



WHO IS SILENT

A TOUGH BUT WEIRD LADY

HANGS IN THEIR ROOKIE

A NICE GIRL

LOOKS AWESOME ON THE JOB

TERRIFIED

STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN



FIRST CLASS FIRE SOLDIER (SECOND GENERATION PYROKINETIC) MAKI OZE

A former member of the military, she is an excellent fighter who controls fire. Mad about love stories, her beauty is overshadowed by her "head full of flowers and wedding bells," but she is kind to her juniors.



(NON-POWERED) NUN IRIS

A sister of the Holy Sol Temple, she plays an indispensable role in extinguishing infernals, reciting the prayers required to calm their souls. Personality-wise, she is no less than an angel. Her boobs are big. Very big.



LIEUTENANT (SECOND GENERATION PYROKINETIC) TAKEHISA HINAWA

A dry, unemotional ex-military man, his stern discipline is feared among the new recruits. He never allows the soldiers to play with fire. Has odd taste in hats.

THE GIRLS/CLUB

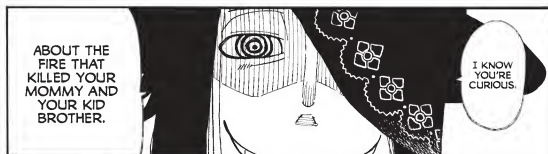
RESPECTS

FIRE FORCE

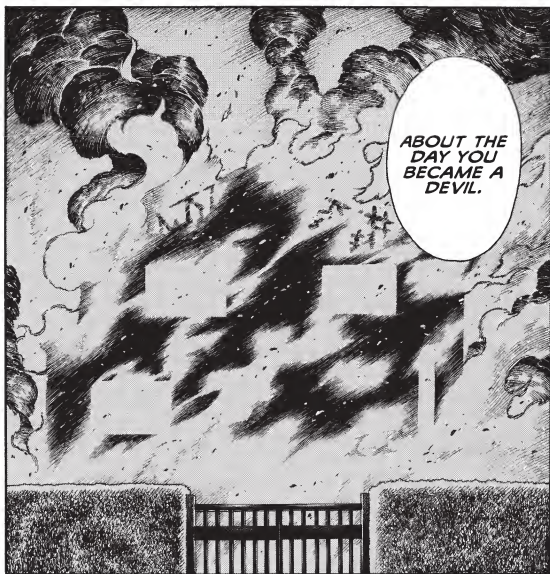
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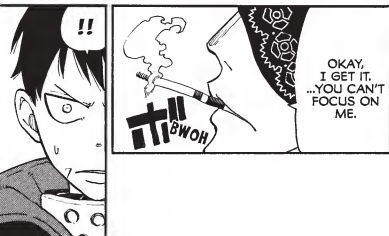
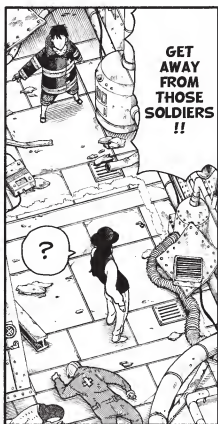
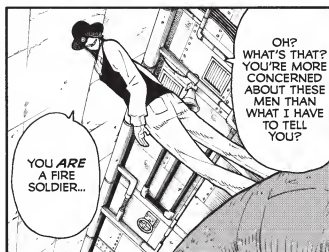
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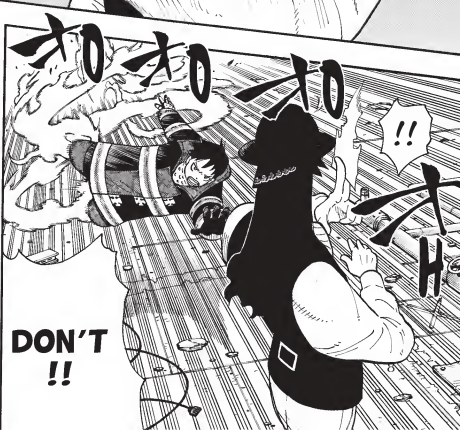
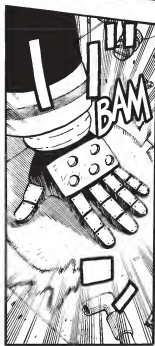
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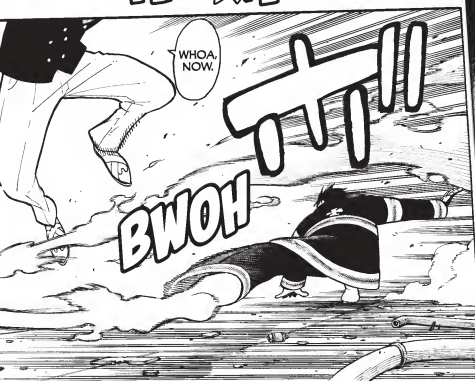
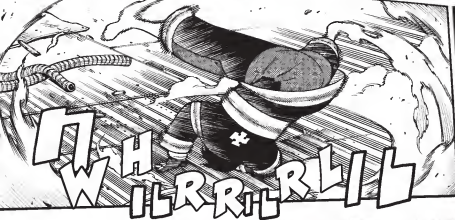
CHAPTER VI: THE EVIL THAT KNOWS THE TRUTH





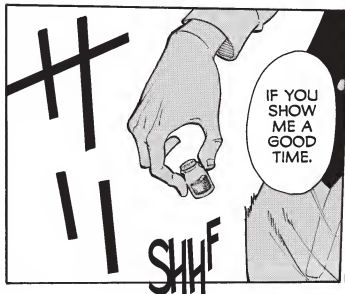


DON'T !!





WHAT DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THAT
FIRE?! TELL
ME!!

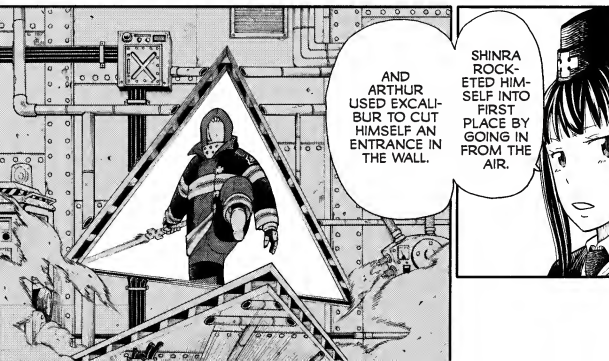


IF YOU
SHOW
ME A
GOOD
TIME.



I WILL.

RUMMAGE



FIRE SCARES ME TO DEATH!
I THOUGHT IF I
SURROUNDED
MYSELF WITH
FIREFIGHTERS,
THEY'D PUT
OUT THE FIRES
AND I COULD
FEEL SAFE!!
THAT'S WHY I
JOINED THE
FIRE FORCE!!

CLANG



WHYYYY
?

SO WHY
SHOULD I
HAVE TO GO
INTO A BURN-
ING BUILDING
VOLUNTARILY?



LOOKS
LIKE A
ROOKIE
FROM
COMPANY 2.



WHAT'S
THAT
GUY
DOING?



FIRE
!!!!

In my
hands!



DAMMIT
JUGGERNAUT...
IF HE'D JUST GET
A HANDLE ON HIS
POWER, HE'D BE
A REAL FORCE
TO BE RECKONED
WITH. BUT RIGHT
NOW...HE'S
WORTHLESS



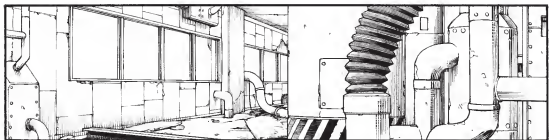
FOOSH

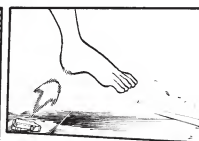
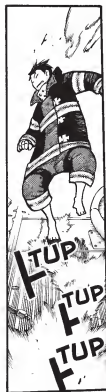
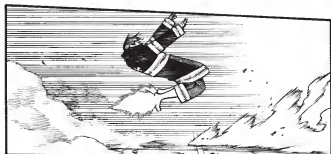


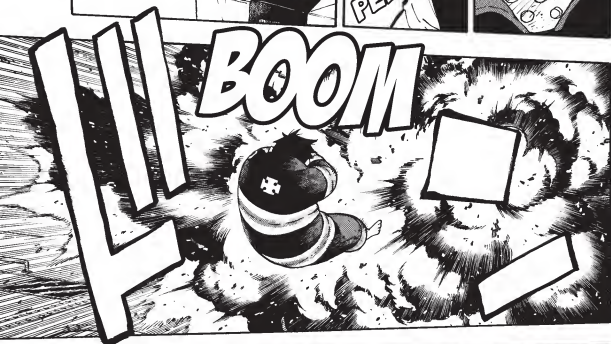
I'M
SCAAAA-
AARED!!
GO
AWAA-
AAAAAY
!!!!

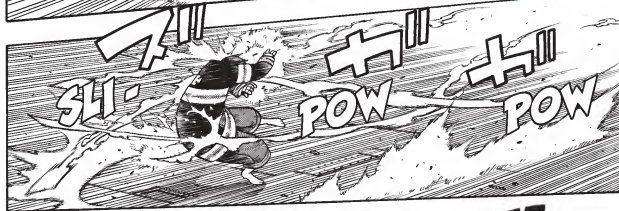




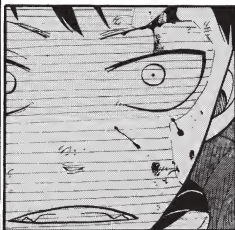
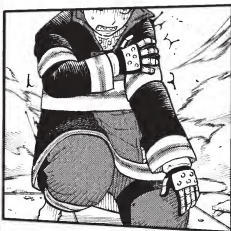






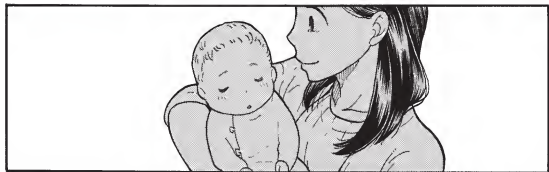


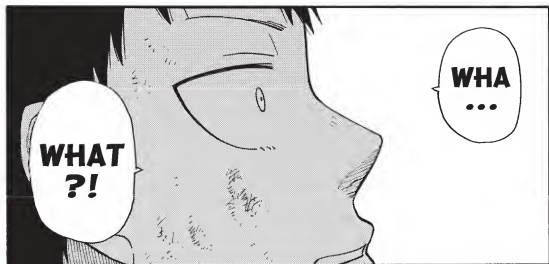
...
**GUESS
I'LL
KILL
HIM.**



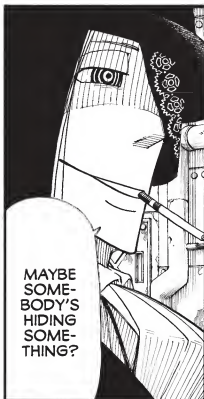
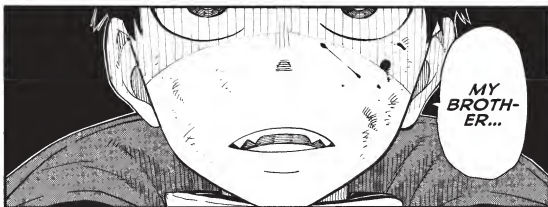


HE...
HE'S
GONNA
KILL
ME...





FIRE FORCE



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THEY TOLD ME HE WAS DEAD! NOT EVEN HIS BONES WERE LEFT!!

BESIDES, IF HE WERE ALIVE, WHERE DID HE GO AFTER THE FIRE?! SHO WAS JUST A BABY—HE WAS ONLY A YEAR OLD!





CHAPTER VII: THE DEVIL AND THE JOKER

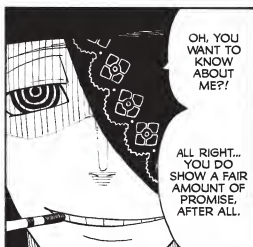


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THINK OF
SOMEONE?

SOMETHING
FELT OFF-
WHAT IF
I WASN'T
IMAGINING
IT?



IT WAS JUST
A HUNCH...
BUT IT DID
SEEM LIKE
COMPANY 1'S
CAPTAIN
WAS HIDING
SOMETHING.



OH, YOU
WANT TO
KNOW
ABOUT
ME?!

ALL RIGHT...
YOU DO
SHOW A FAIR
AMOUNT OF
PROMISE,
AFTER ALL.



WHAT'S
YOUR
ANGLE?!

WHAT
DID YOU
COME
HERE
FOR?!

AND WHY
WOULD
YOU TELL
ME?!

LET'S
SAY IT IS
TRUE-HOW
WOULD
YOU
KNOW?

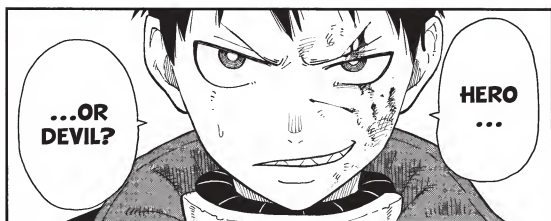


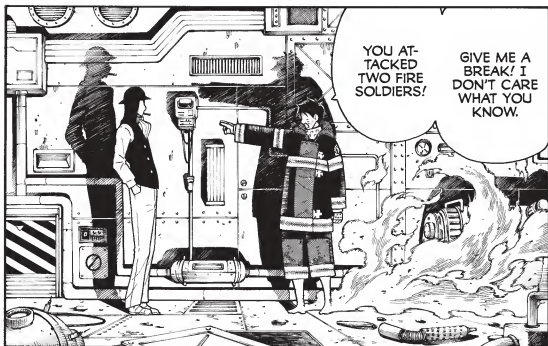
YOUR
MOTHER
IS DEAD...
THAT'S NO
SMALL
MATTER.

YOU WANT
TO KNOW
THE TRUTH,
DON'T
YOU?

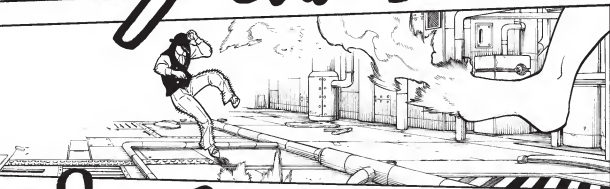
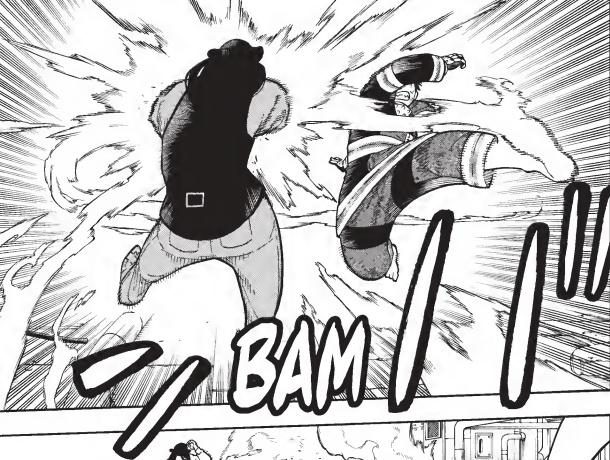
I'M
GUESSING
YOU'RE
STARTING
TO HAVE
MISGIVINGS
ABOUT THE
SPECIAL FIRE
FORCE?

AND
LOOKING
AT YOU
NOW...YOU
MUST HAVE
SOME CLUE,
RIGHT?







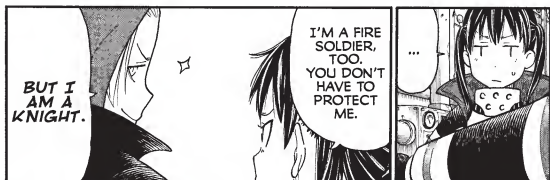
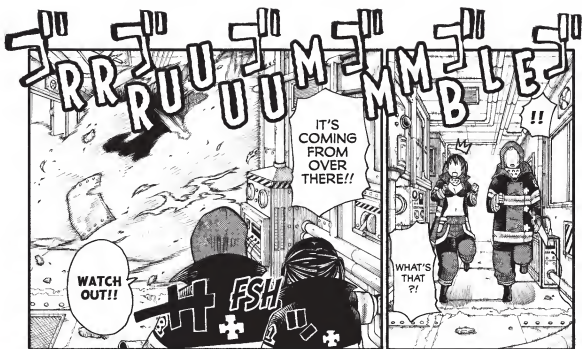


A
HERO S
GOTTA
HAVE A
FLYING
KICK!!





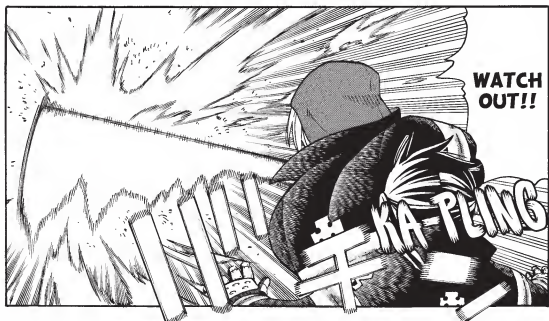
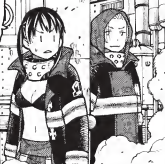
I'M IMPRESSED!
NOW *THAT* IS A DEVIL'S
FIREPOWER
!!



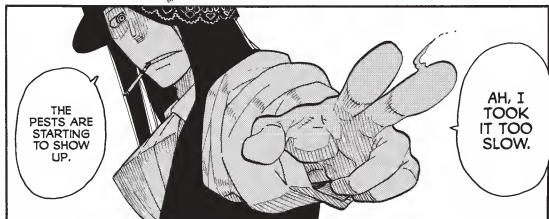


WELL, THIS IS A COMPETITION, SO I APPRECIATE YOU LETTING ME GO AHEAD OF YOU.

BUT... YOU DON'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE.



WATCH OUT!!



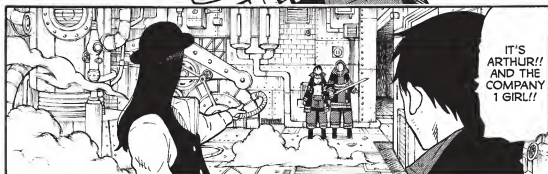
THE PESTS ARE STARTING TO SHOW UP.

AH, I TOOK IT TOO SLOW.

ZOOM
すしー

SO
MUCH
FOR
LADIES
FIRST.

SORRY
TO KEEP
YOU
WAITING!!
INFER-
NAL!



IT'S
ARTHUR!!
AND THE COMPANY
1 GIRL!!

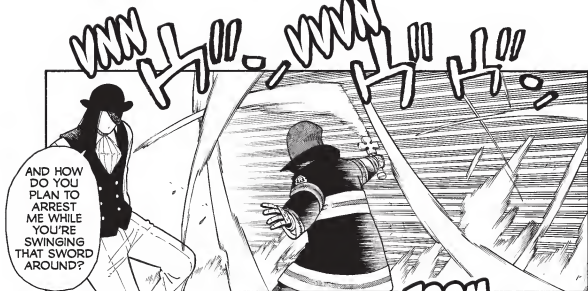
WHAT
?!!

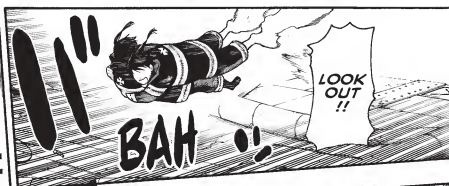
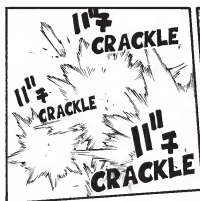
THIS
SUSPICIOUS
CHARACTER IS
TRESPASSING
IN THE GAMES
FACILITY! HE'S
INJURED TWO
SOLDIERS!

I'LL GET HIM
INTO CUSTODY!
YOU GO REPORT
TO THE CAPTAINS
OUTSIDE!

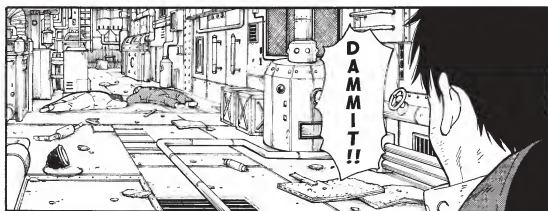
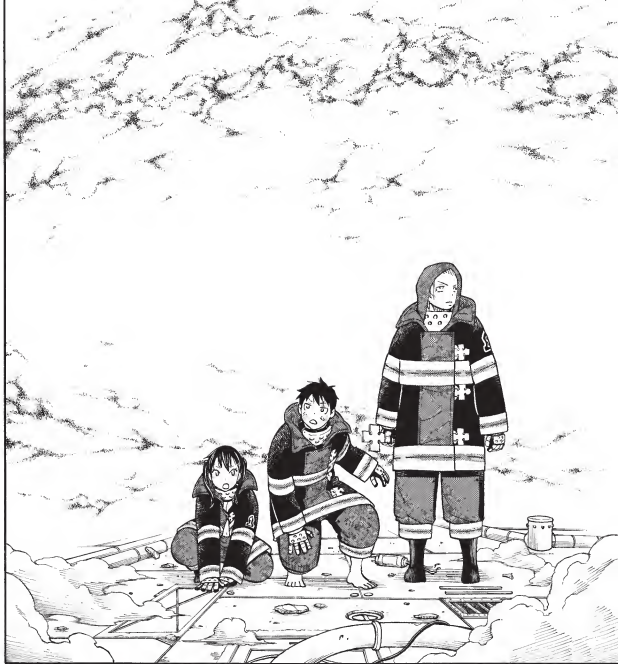
ARTHUR
!!











DON'T
MESS
THIS UP.

SEE YOU
LATER,
DEVIL.

YOU'RE
WELCOME
TO TEAM
UP WITH
THE JOKER
WHenever
YOU FEEL
LIKE IT.

HURRY!!
WE HAVE
TO GET
OUT OF
HERE!!

BAH

!!





CHAPTER VIII: SEEKING THE TRUTH





ARTHUR!!
CUT A HOLE
IN THE
CEILING!!
WE'LL
GET OUT
THROUGH
THE TOP!!



...FROM
FAIR
PRIN-
CESSES
!!



THE
CUT IS
TOO
CLEAN;
IT WON'T
COME
DOWN.







**BOTH
OF
YOU,
HOLD
ON
TIGHT
!!**

**I WILL
SAVE
THEM
ALL!!**



**COME
ON!!
HURRY
!!**



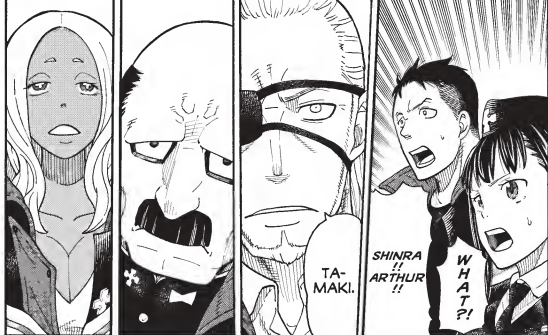
**F
BOOM**

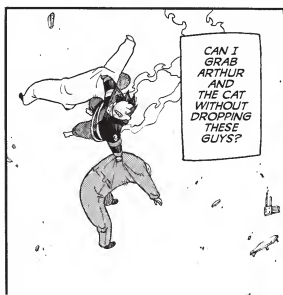




I'M GOING
TO SAVE
AS MANY
PEOPLE
FROM THE
FIRE AS I
CAN!!

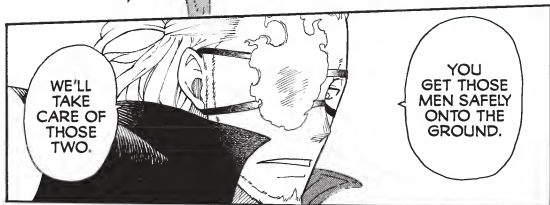








CAN OR
NOT, I
HAVE
TO.



WE'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
THOSE
TWO.

YOU
GET THOSE
MEN SAFELY
ONTO THE
GROUND.

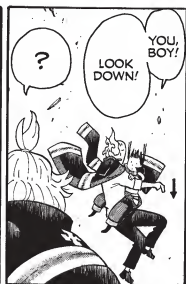
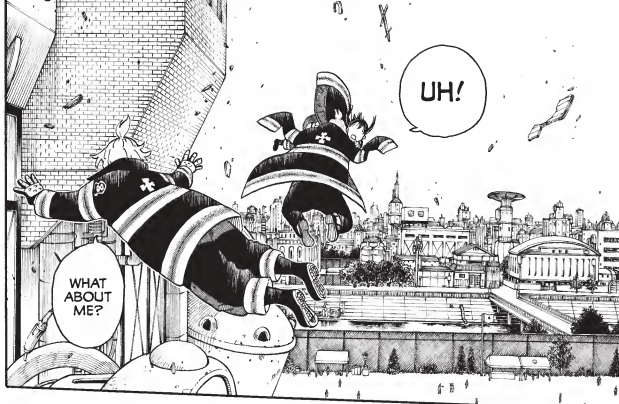


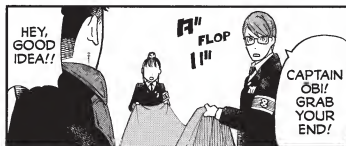
TH...
THANK
YOU,
SIR!!

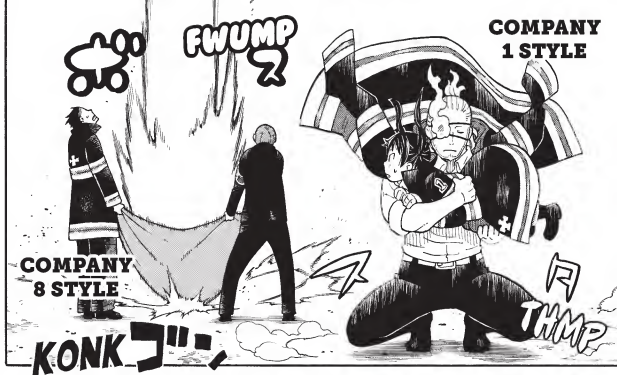


CAPTAIN
BURNS
!!

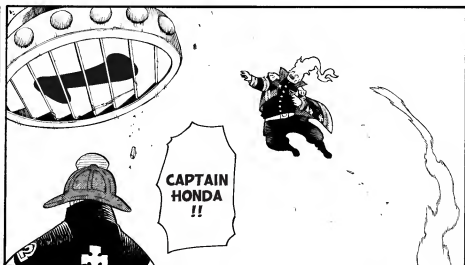
BWAAH



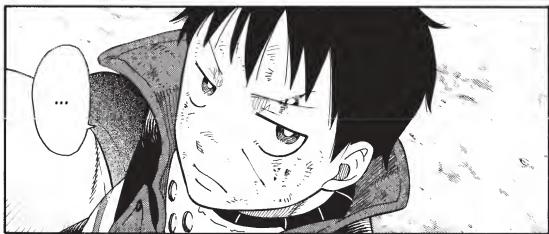


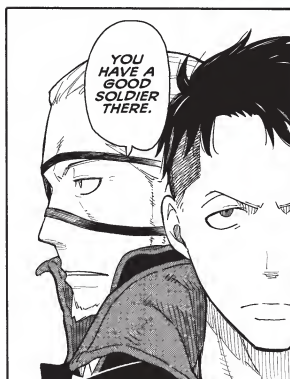


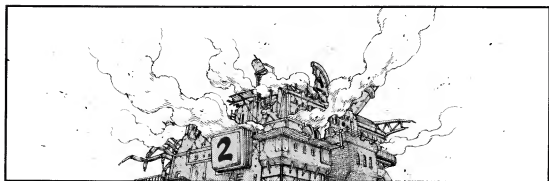
SPLAT











THE EXPLOSIONS WERE A LOT LIKE THE ONES WE SAW THEN.

REMEMBER THE FIRE THE OTHER DAY WHEN SOMEONE TRASHED THE SCENE AND THE CEILING ALMOST CRUSHED YOU?

! 3

HE HAD THIS STRANGE POWDER, AND HE COULD CONTROL EXPLOSIONS ...

CAPTAIN ŌBI... I RAN INTO A SUSPICIOUS MAN IN THERE.

SHINRA ...

I PROMISED MY MOM !!

AND THE MAN SEEMED TO KNOW SOMETHING... ABOUT THE FIRE THAT KILLED MY MOM 12 YEARS AGO.

IS THE SPECIAL FIRE FORCE HIDING SOMETHING?



**FIRE
SOLDIERS
ARE HEROES,
RIGHT?
HEROES WHO
FIGHT THE
FEAR OF THE
FLAME!**

**I BECAME A
FIRE SOLDIER
SO I COULD
PROTECT
EVERYONE!**

THAT'S TRUE...
BUT... IT'S NOT
LIKE EVERYONE
IN THE SPECIAL
FIRE FORCE WAS
CUT FROM THE
SAME CLOTH.

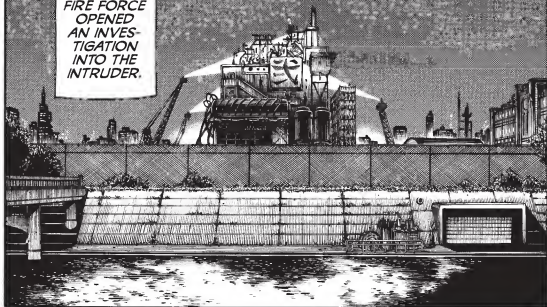


**I
SHOULD
TELL
YOU... WHY
COMPANY
8 WAS
FORMED.**

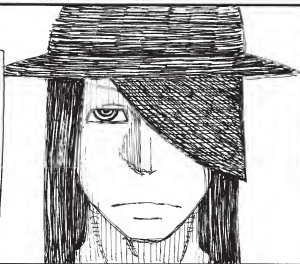
CHAPTER IX: COMPANY 8'S QUARRY

AFTER THE
INCIDENT,
THE ROOKIE
GAMES
WERE
CANCELED.

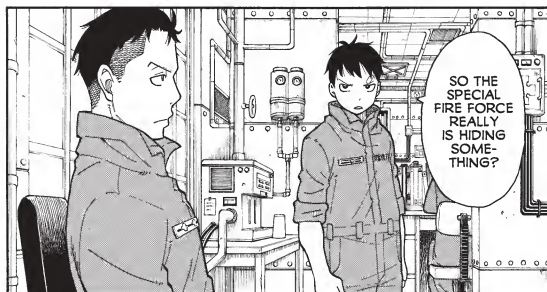
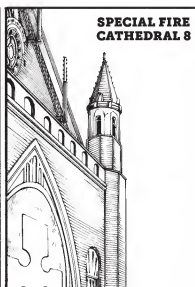
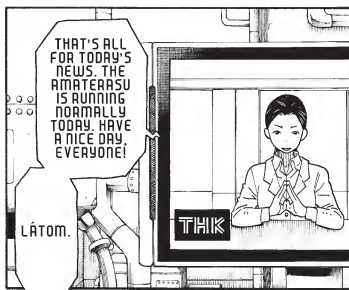
THE
SPECIAL
FIRE FORCE
OPENED
AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE
INTRUDER.

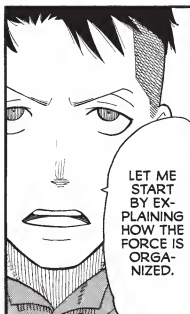


THEY
GAVE HIM
THE ALIAS
"JOKER."



A COMPOSITE
SKETCH WAS
MADE BASED
ON DESCRIPTIONS
FROM
ME AND
CAT GIRL.

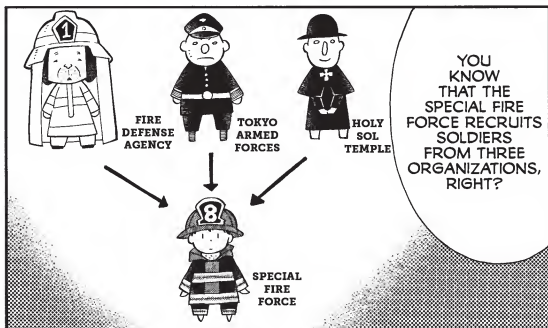




LET ME
START
BY EX-
PLAINING
HOW THE
FORCE IS
ORGAN-
IZED.

BACK TO
WHAT WE
WERE TALKING
ABOUT
YESTERDAY, I
JOINED THE
FORCE SO I
COULD BE A
HERO.

THE
SPECIAL FIRE
FORCE DOES
FIGHT FOR
THE PEOPLE,
DOESN'T IT?

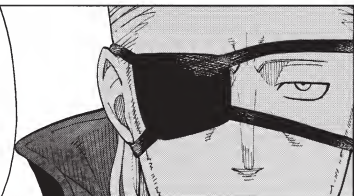


BUT IN REAL-
ITY, THAT'S NOT
NECESSARILY TRUE.
EACH COMPANY IS
INFLUENCED MORE
OR LESS BY A
DIFFERENT PARENT
ORGANIZATION.

AT A
GLANCE,
IT MAY
LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE ALL
WORKING
TOGETHER
ACROSS
PARTY
LINES.



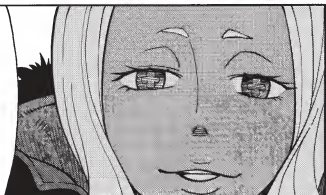
**THE HOLY
SOL TEMPLE
HAS A LOT OF PULL
WITH COMPANY 1,
AND MOST OF ITS
RECRUITS ARE FROM
THE CHURCH.**



**COMPANY 2 IS
DIRECTLY AFFILIATED
WITH THE TOKYO
ARMED FORCES. YOU
COULD SAY IT'S A
VERY "MILITARY"
COMPANY.**



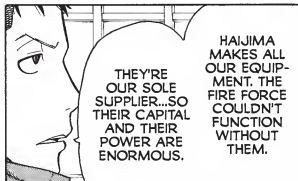
**THEN THERE'S
COMPANY 5. ON
PAPER, IT WORKS FOR
THE TOKYO ARMED
FORCES, BUT IN
ACTUALITY, THEY
ANSWER TO HAIJIMA
INDUSTRIES.**

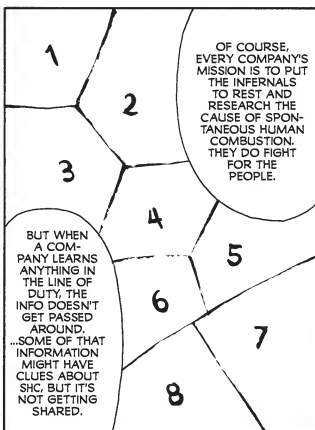
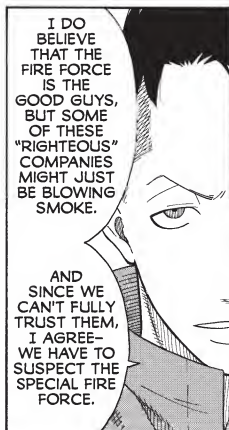


**THEY'RE
OUR SOLE
SUPPLIER...SO
THEIR CAPITAL
AND THEIR
POWER ARE
ENORMOUS.**

**HAIJIMA
MAKES ALL
OUR EQUIP-
MENT. THE
FIRE FORCE
COULDN'T
FUNCTION
WITHOUT
THEM.**

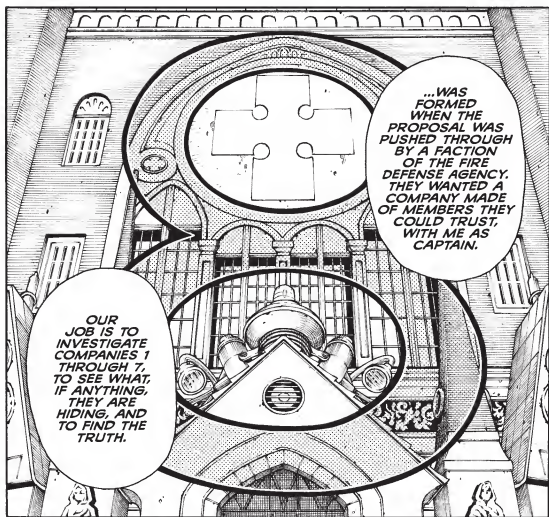
**HAIJIMA?
WHY DO
THEY HAVE
SO MUCH
POWER?**





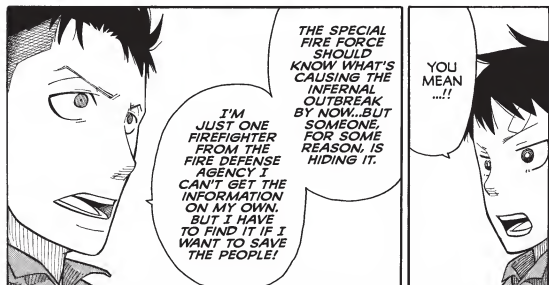
SHC: SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION.





OUR
JOB IS TO
INVESTIGATE
COMPANIES 1
THROUGH 7,
TO SEE WHAT,
IF ANYTHING,
THEY ARE
HIDING, AND
TO FIND THE
TRUTH.

...WAS
FORMED
WHEN THE
PROPOSAL WAS
PUSHED THROUGH
BY A FACTION
OF THE FIRE
DEFENSE AGENCY.
THEY WANTED A
COMPANY MADE
OF MEMBERS THEY
COULD TRUST,
WITH ME AS
CAPTAIN.



I'M
JUST ONE
FIREFIGHTER
FROM THE
FIRE DEFENSE
AGENCY I
CAN'T GET THE
INFORMATION
ON MY OWN.
BUT I HAVE
TO FIND IT IF I
WANT TO SAVE
THE PEOPLE!

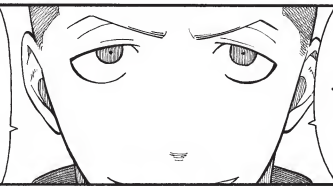
THE SPECIAL
FIRE FORCE
SHOULD
KNOW WHAT'S
CAUSING THE
INFERNAL
OUTBREAK
BY NOW...BUT
SOMEONE,
FOR SOME
REASON, IS
HIDING IT.

YOU
MEAN
...!!



IF I STICK WITH
HIM, I'LL GET
CLOSER TO
SOLVING THE
MYSTERY OF
SPONTANEOUS
COMBUSTION...
AND TO THE
TRUTH ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
ON THE DAY I
LOST MOM AND
SHŌ!!

**PLEASE,
LET ME
HELP WITH
THE INVESTIGATION
!!**



I'M GLAD I
RECRUITED
YOU TO
COMPANY
8.

THANKS.



FORGIVE
ME FOR
INTER-
RUPTING.

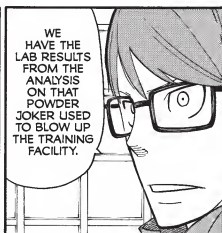
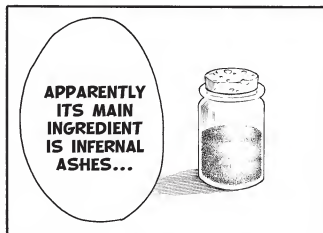


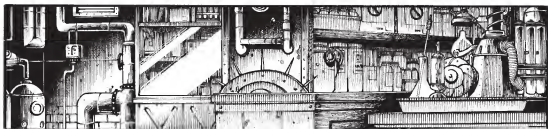
AND THE
CATHEDRAL
IS FALLING
APART...



Ha ha
ha, we
got
nobody!

OF COURSE,
IT WAS PUT
TOGETHER IN
SUCH A HURRY,
IT'S JUST THE
SIX OF US
RIGHT NOW!





I DID SOME DIGGING ON SPECIAL FIRE FORCE COMPANY 8—THE ONE WITH THAT DEVIL.

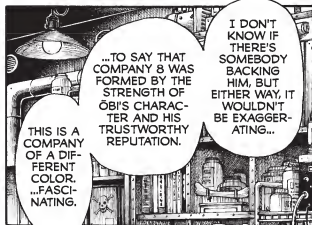


HOW'D IT GO? DID YOU MAKE AN EASY ESCAPE?

YEAH, THANKS TO THAT PASSAGE YOU SET UP, I SLIPPED UNDERGROUND AND THE REST WAS CAKE.



NOT BAD. FOR BETTER OR WORSE, HE'S THE VERY MODEL OF A FIREFIGHTER.



THIS IS A COMPANY OF A DIFFERENT COLOR. ...FASCINATING.

...TO SAY THAT COMPANY 8 WAS FORMED BY THE STRENGTH OF ŌBI'S CHARACTER AND HIS TRUSTWORTHY REPUTATION.

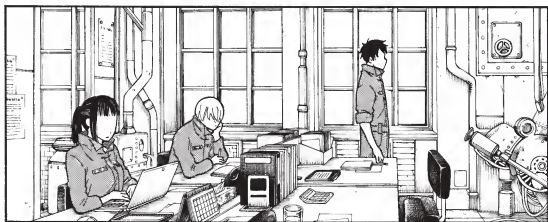
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S SOMEBODY BACKING HIM, BUT EITHER WAY, IT WOULDN'T BE EXAGGERATING...



ITS CAPTAIN IS AKITARU ŌBI.

BACK WHEN HE WAS IN THE FIRE DEFENSE AGENCY, HE WAS AWARDED TWO MEDALS AND STRIPPED OF BOTH OF THEM.

HE LOST EACH MEDAL AFTER DEFYING ORDERS AND PUTTING HUMAN LIVES FIRST.



BUT THE
CAPTAIN'S
RIGHT.
SOLVING THE
INFERNAL
PROBLEM
COMES
FIRST.



I COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF TO
TELL HIM
ABOUT
SHŌ...

WOULD YOU
QUIT LOOKING
LIKE YOU'RE
DEAD WHEN
YOU'RE DOING
OFFICE WORK?
YOU'RE
KILLING MY
MOTIVATION.

URRRN
...

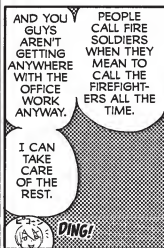
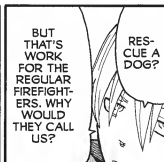
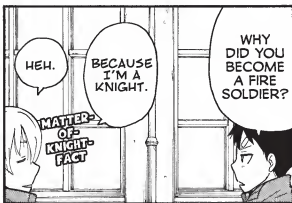


SHŌ IS
ALIVE...

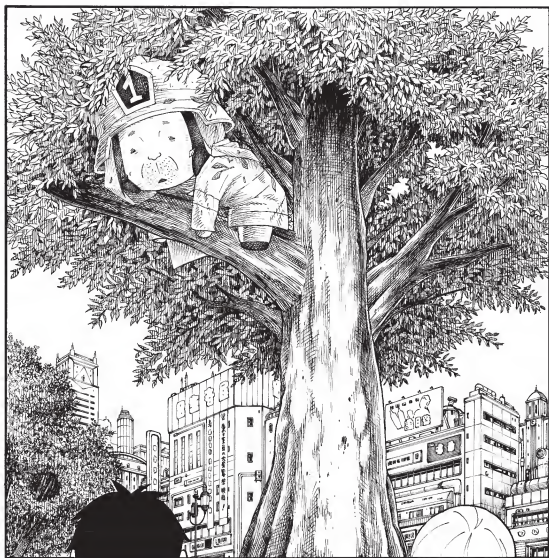
CREAK

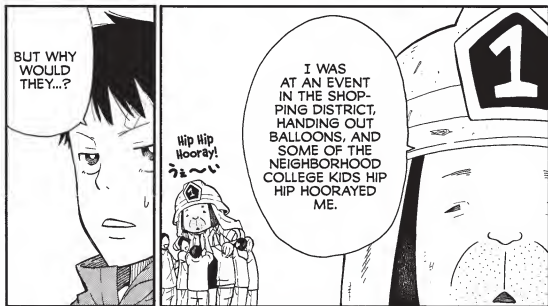
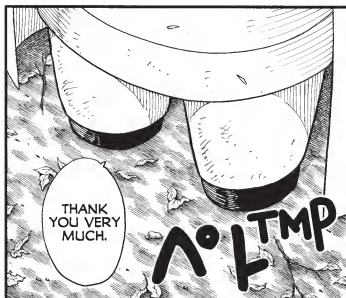








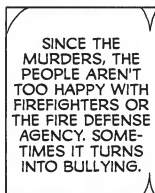
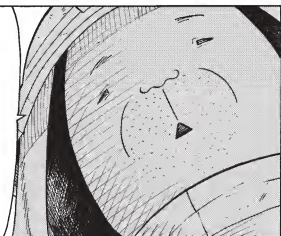






WHAT?

DO YOU
REMEMBER THE
FIREFIGHTER
SERIAL
KILLER?



SINCE THE
MURDERS, THE
PEOPLE AREN'T
TOO HAPPY WITH
FIREFIGHTERS OR
THE FIRE DEFENSE
AGENCY. SOME-
TIMES IT TURNS
INTO BULLYING.

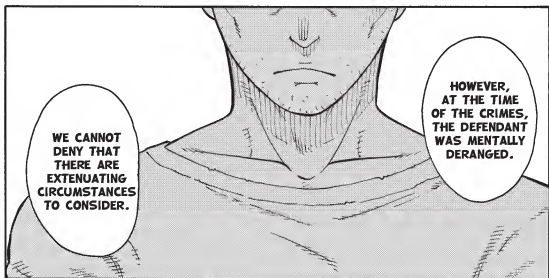
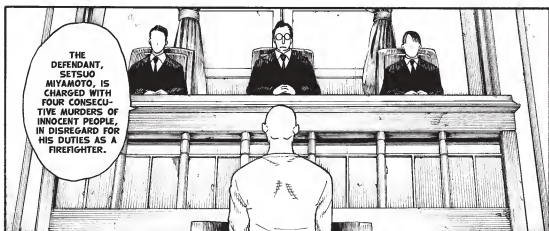
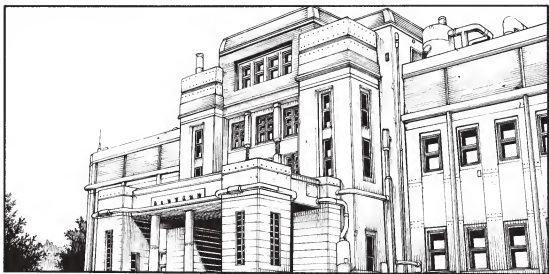
WELL, HE'S
STILL ON
TRIAL... BUT
THERE WAS A
FIREFIGHTER
NAMED MIYA-
MOTO WHO
KILLED FOUR
PEOPLE FOR
THE FUN OF IT.



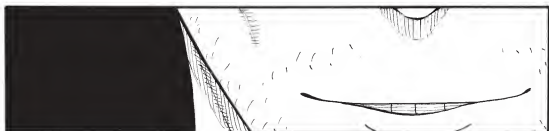
THEY'RE
HANDING
DOWN HIS
VERDICT TODAY.
EVERYONE SAYS
HE'LL PROBABLY
BE LET OFF FOR
INSANITY.



SO?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THIS
FIRE-
FIGHTER?

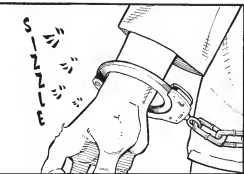


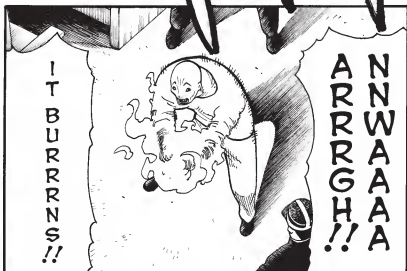
**THEREFORE,
THE COURT
FINDS THE
DEFENDANT,
SETSUO
MIYAMOTO,
NOT GUILTY.**



**THAT'S
ABSURD!
THE
DEATH
PENALTY
WOULD
BE TOO
GOOD
FOR
THAT
SLEAZE-
BAG!**







SOME-
BODY
!!

SOME-
BODY
PUT IT
OUT!!

FWOOOOOSH

HE...
HE'S
GOING
INFERNAL
?

HA
HA!

AH
HA
HA...

HURRY
!!
HURRY
!!

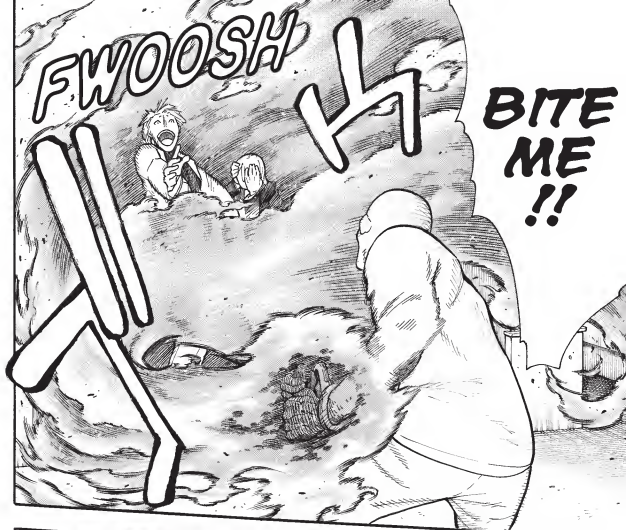
ARRA
HHA
HA!!

GET A
FIRE
EXTIN-
GUISH-
ER!!

OR A
BLAN-
KET-I
DON'T
CARE!

THE
GREAT SUN
GOD IS
PUNISHING
YOU!!

DIVINE
RETRIBU-
TION!!
YOU
PIECE OF
TRASH!!
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
GET!!



FWOOSH

**BITE
ME
!!**



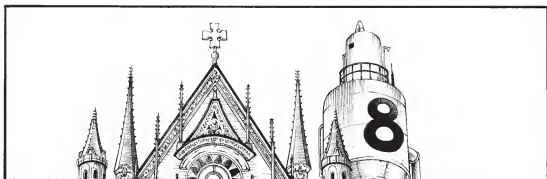
**AH
HA
HA
HA**

WAAAAH!!

HNGAH!

FWOOSH
BWOOSH

AAAH!!

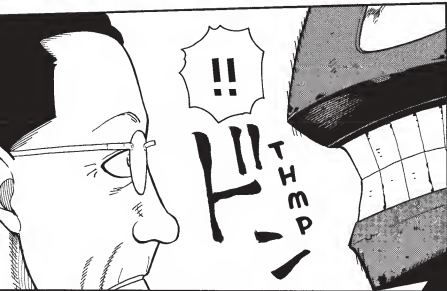


**I'LL
MURDER
EVERY
LAST
ONE
OF
YOU!**

**HA
HA!**

**I'LL
KILL
YOU,
YOU
HEAR
?!**





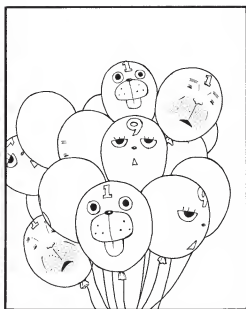


CHAPTER X: AN INFERNAL WITH A WILL

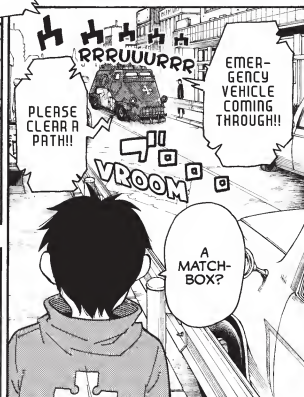
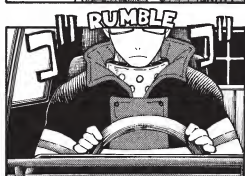


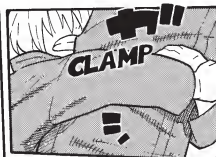
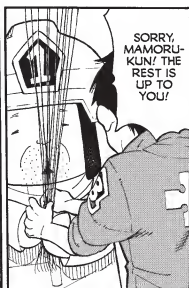
COME ON, WHY NOT?

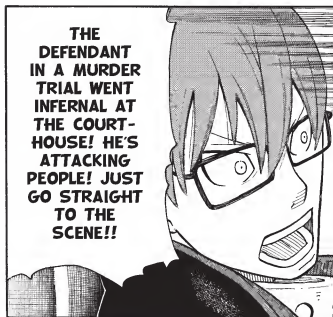
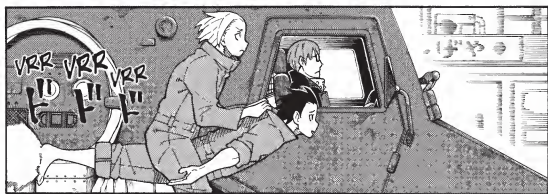
WHAT THE- WHY'D YOU GET A BAL- LOON?



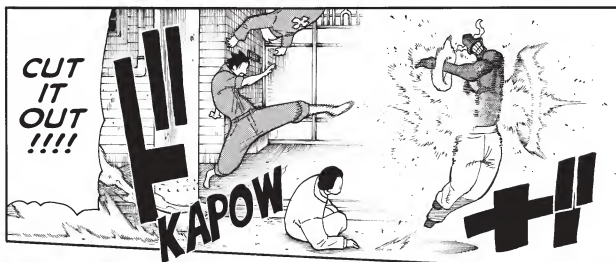
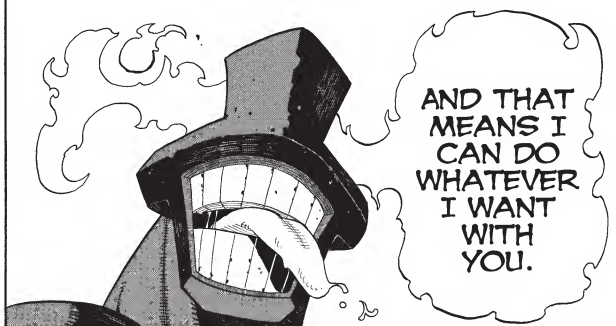
THAT'S LIEUTENANT HINAWA'S VOICE...

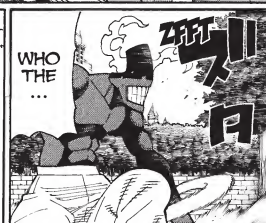
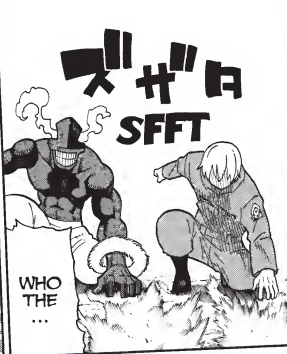
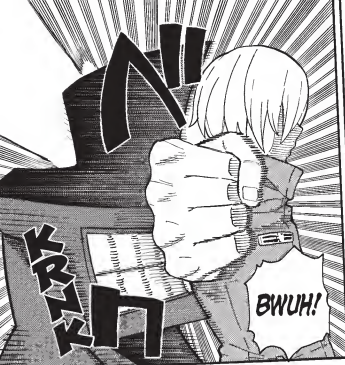


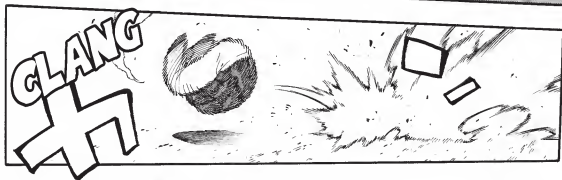
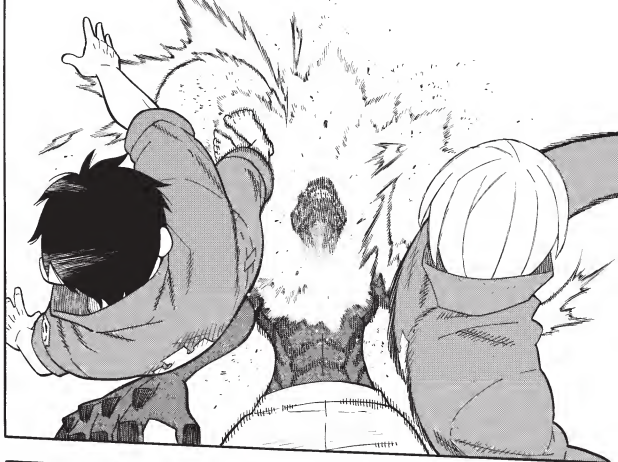








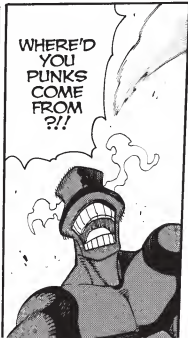




**MAMORU-KUN
WAS HIP HIP
HOORAYED TO
THE TOP OF A
TREE BECAUSE
OF YOU!!**

**HUH?!
THAT'S
HIS CRIME?
NOT THE
MURDERS?**

YEAH!



**WHERE'D
YOU
PUNKS
COME
FROM
?!!**



H...HELP
ME!

THAT
BUNCH OF
PHONIES
THAT
"SAVES
THE DAY"
BY MUR-
DERING
PEOPLE.



OH, I GET
IT. YOU'RE
FROM THE
SPECIAL
FIRE
FORCE.



IT'S
NOT
FAIR.

I
WISH I
COULD
DO
THAT
...



SHRR

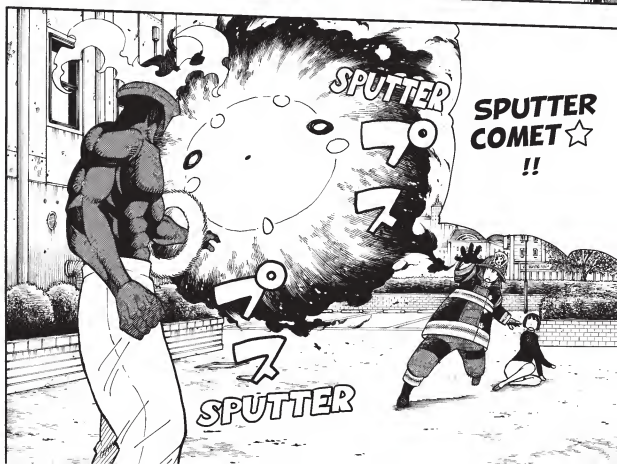
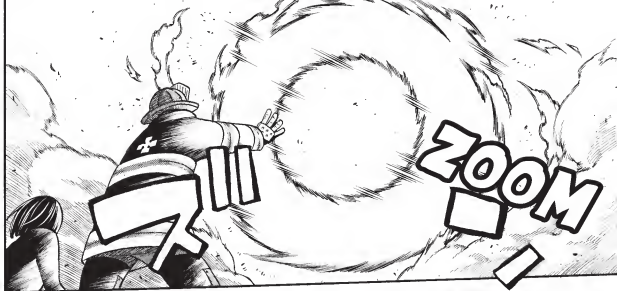
THEY'RE
HERE
TO KILL
ME!!

THEY'RE
NOT
HERE
TO
HELP
YOU!!

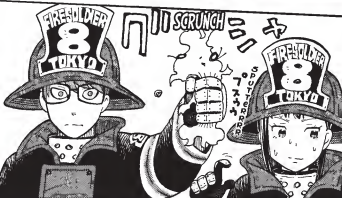


SO
PUT A LID
ON THAT
WHINING,
BOBCAT
!!

BAH



SHOOMP



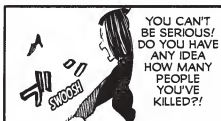
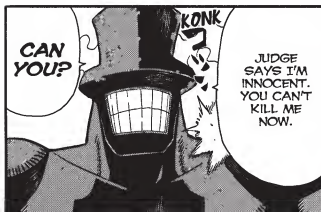
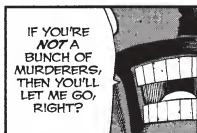
BUT I
MADE
SURE
TO SAVE
SOME
FIRE!



IF THEY HAVE
A STRONG
ENOUGH
WILL AND
ATTACHMENT
TO LIFE, THEY
DO MAINTAIN
SOME OF THEIR
ATTRIBUTES
FROM WHEN
THEY WERE
ALIVE...BUT I'VE
NEVER SEEN A
CONSCIOUS-
NESS THIS
WELL
INTACT.

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?! HE HASN'T LOST HIS MIND?!

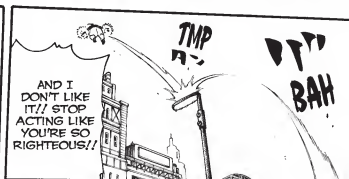




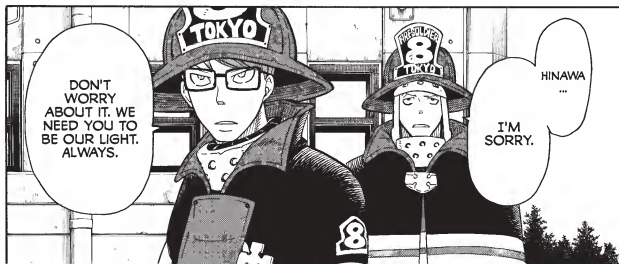


UNFORTUNATELY,
I'M NOT SUCH
GOOD A PERSON
THAT I CAN JUST
FORGIVE SCUM
LIKE YOU.

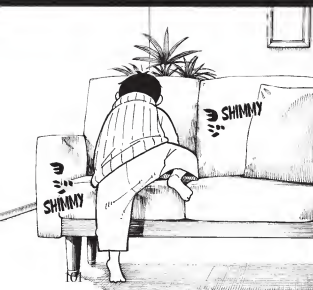
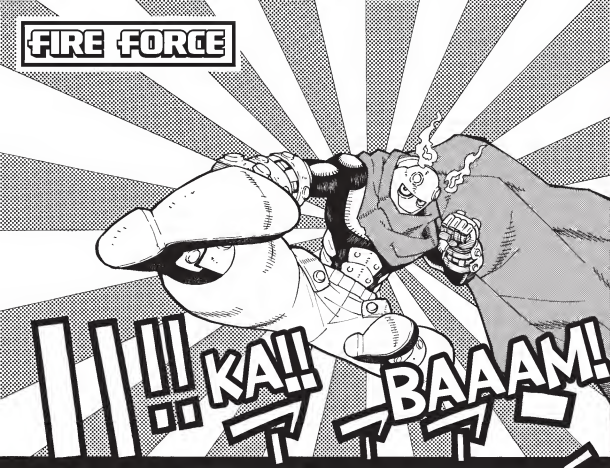






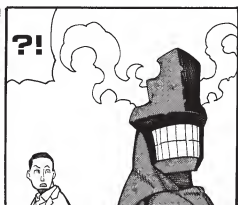
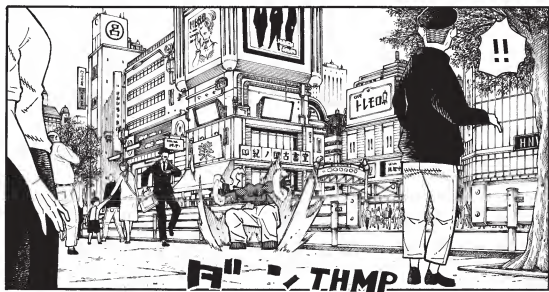
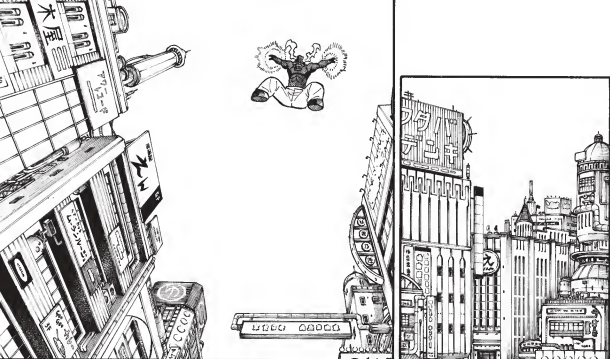


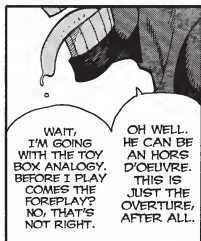
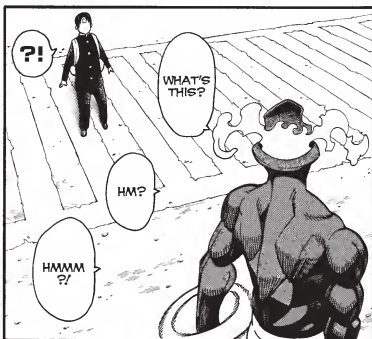
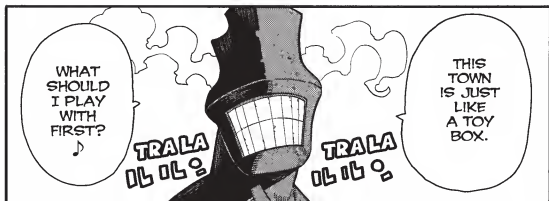
FIRE FORCE



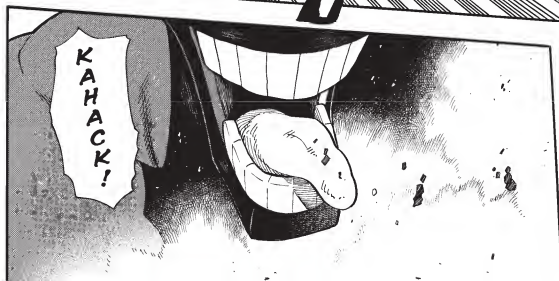


CHAPTER XI: THE HERO AND THE PRINCESS











OKAY!

O...

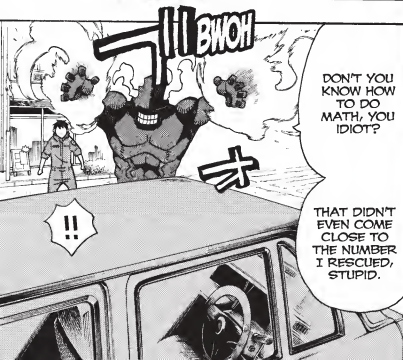
YOU
OKAY?
YOU
NEED TO
GET OUT
OF HERE.
IT'S NOT
SAFE.



SO WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
KILLING A
FEW OF 'EM IN
MY INFERNAL
DAYS?

DON'T
YOU KNOW
HOW MANY
PEOPLE
I SAVED
BACK IN MY
FIREFIGHTER
DAYS?

WHAT'S
THE BIG
IDEA,
INTER-
RUPTING
MY FUN?

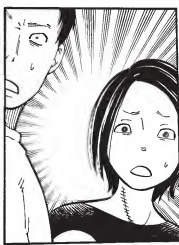
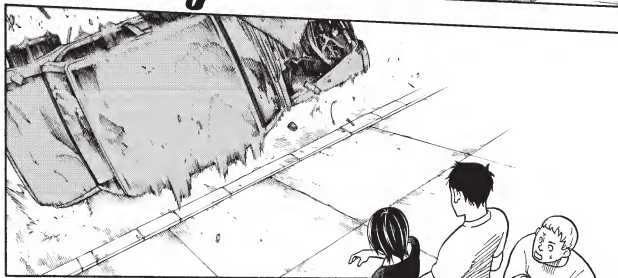
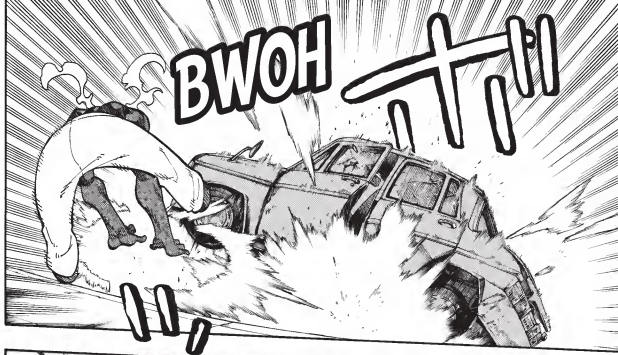


DON'T YOU
KNOW HOW
TO DO
MATH, YOU
IDIOT?

THAT DIDN'T
EVEN COME
CLOSE TO
THE NUMBER
I RESCUED,
STUPID.



YOU
KILLED
PEOPLE
IN YOUR
FIREF-
IGHTER
DAYS,
TOO.



GO
AHEAD
AND
TR-

HA HA HA,
YOU GONNA
DO SOME-
THING WITH
THOSE KICKS
YOU'RE SO
PROUD OF?
HUH? ARE
YOU?

HOW
ARE YOU
GONNA
CATCH
THAT
CAR?

YOU'RE
DESPI-
CABLE
TO THE
CORE.

AIEE
?!

KA-

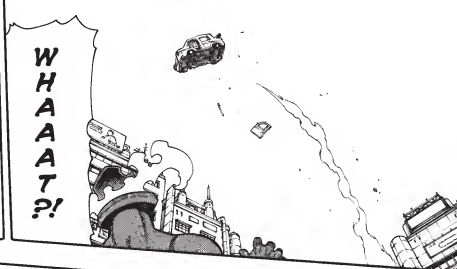
FWAM

WHA-
?!



THAT CAR
WEIGHED
AT LEAST
A TON!

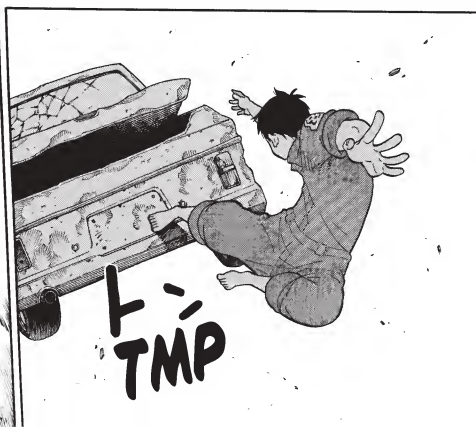
YOU'RE
KID-
DING
...



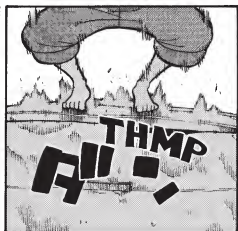
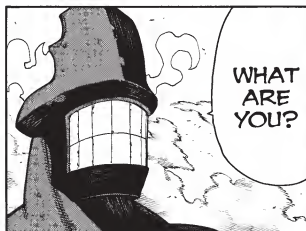
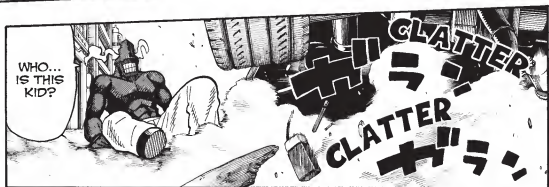
W
H
A
A
A
T
?!



BWAH



T-MP





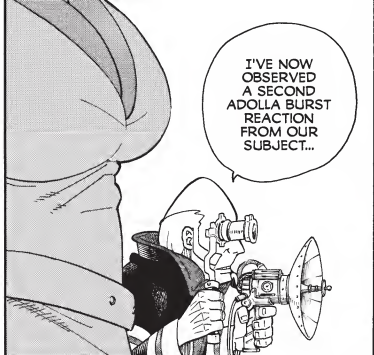
YOU'RE
...

YOU'RE
THE
DEVIL
...

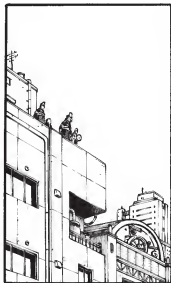
NO.

**I'M A
HERO.**



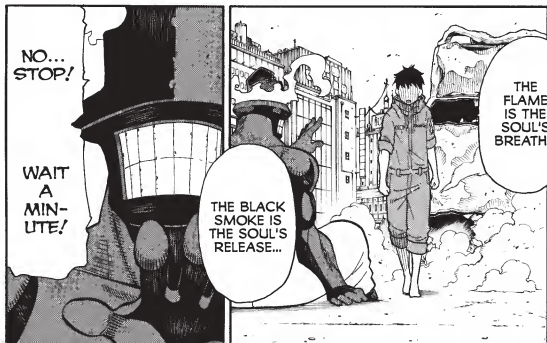


I'VE NOW
OBSERVED
A SECOND
ADOLLA BURST
REACTION
FROM OUR
SUBJECT...



BUT
FIRST, THE
SELF-AWARE
INFERNAL.
...IT WOULD BE A
SHAME TO PUT
HIM OUT. LET'S
COLLECT
HIM.

I SEE. AT
THE MOMENT
OF IMPACT,
HE IGNITES A
POWERFUL
EXPLOSION WITH
HIS FOOT.
WE PICKED A
WINNER WITH
THAT ONE.



NO...
STOP!

WAIT
A
MIN-
UTE!

THE BLACK
SMOKE IS
THE SOUL'S
RELEASE...

THE
FLAME
IS THE
SOUL'S
BREATH...



ASHES
AS
ASHES...



OUR SISTER'S
NOT HERE TO
PRAY FOR YOU,
BUT THIS IS AS
GOOD AS YOU
DESERVE.

YOU GET
IT, RIGHT?
I'M STILL
SCARED TO
DIE!

THE
LEAST YOU
COULD DO IS
LET A HOLY
WOMAN OFFER A
PRAYER FOR MY
SOUL BEFORE
YOU OFF ME...
RIGHT?



OKAY, SO
MAYBE I'M
INFERNAL,
BUT I STILL
THINK LIKE
A HUMAN
BEING.

AND MY BODY
BURNS LIKE
HELL, BUT I'M
PUTTING UP
WITH IT.



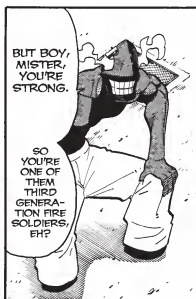
YEAH.
I'LL DO
THAT.

YOU JUST
SIT THERE
AND REPENT
UNTIL THEY
GET HERE.

FINE. I THINK
SISTER IRIS
AND THE
OTHERS ARE
ON THEIR
WAY.

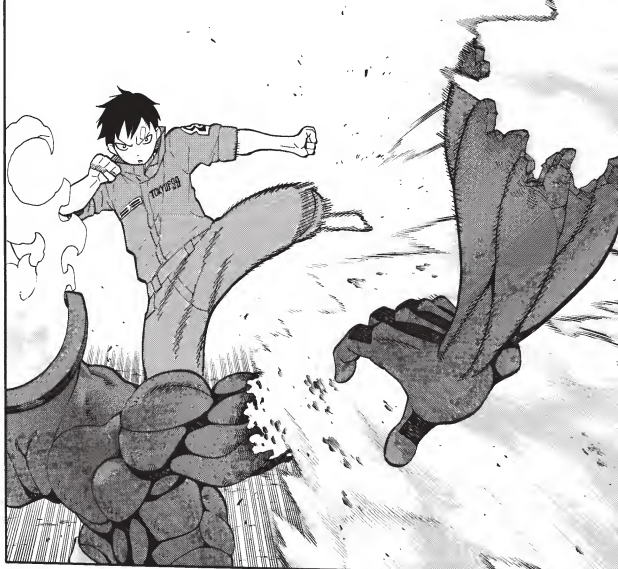


WHEN
I'M
BORN
AGAIN,
I HOPE
I CAN
BE LIKE
YOU.



BUT BOY,
MISTER,
YOU'RE
STRONG.

SO
YOU'RE
ONE OF
THEM
THIRD
GENERATION
FIRE
SOLDIERS,
EH?

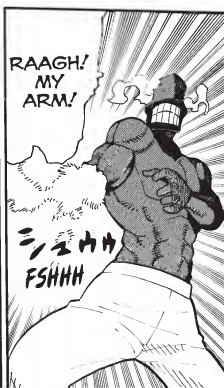


DAMN
IT ALL!!
YOU'RE
JUST A
KID! WHY
SHOULD
I HAVE
TO-?!

HERO, MY
ASS!!
WHAT'S
THE
POINT IN
HELPING
PEOPLE
ANY-WAY?!



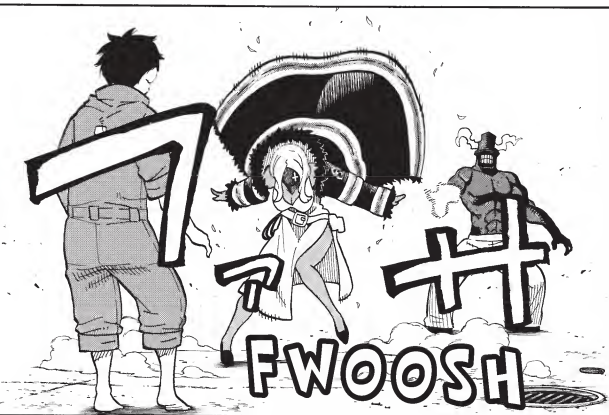
THERE IS NO
HOPE FOR
YOUR SOUL,
IS THERE?



RAAGH!
MY
ARM!

シズン
FSHHH

SIZZLE SIZZLE
フゥ フゥ



BLUE
STRIPES
...

A FIRE
SOLDIER
?!
!

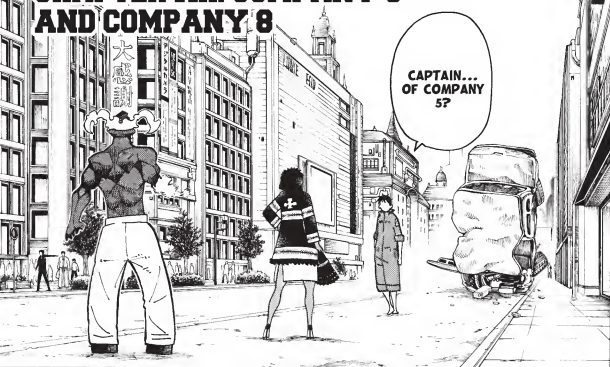




**I AM
CAPTAIN
OF SPECIAL
FIRE FORCE
COMPANY 5,
PRINCESS
HIBANA.**

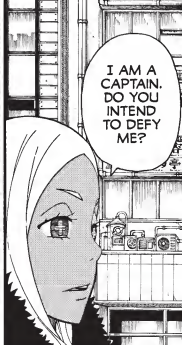
**COMPANY
5 WILL
TAKE CARE
OF THIS
INFERNAL.**

CHAPTER XII: COMPANY 5 AND COMPANY 8





**YOU'RE
NOT MY
CAPTAIN
!!**



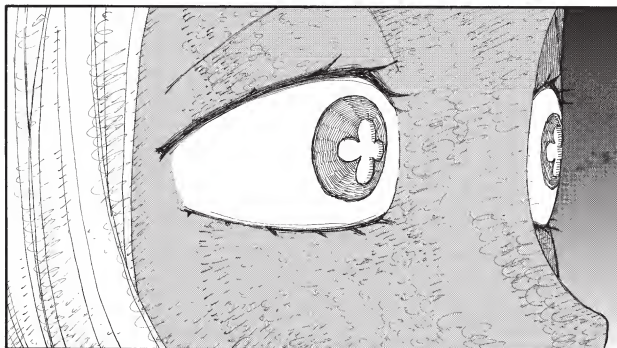
**I AM A
CAPTAIN.
DO YOU
INTEND
TO DEFY
ME?**

**STOP!!
HE BE-
LONGS TO
COMPANY
8!! WE'RE
GONNA
PUT HIM
TO REST!!**

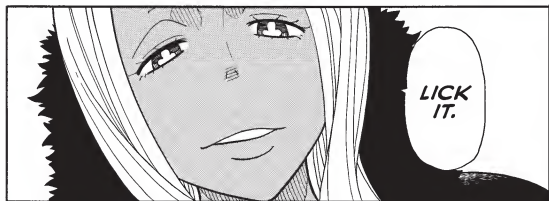
**YOU
CAN'T
JUST COME
IN HERE
AND TAKE
OVER LIKE
THAT!!**



**COMPANY
5 IS THE
ONE RUN
BY HAJIMA
INDUSTRIES...**









BUT
DON'T THINK YOUR
COMPANY'S
TACTICS
ARE A LITTLE
HEAVY-
HANDED?



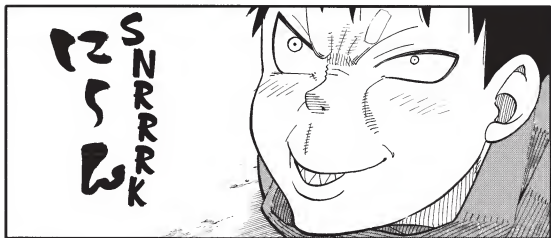
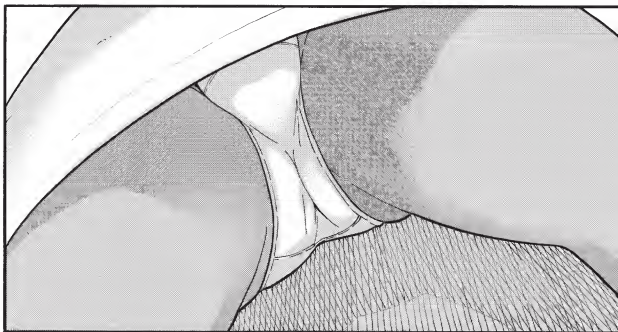
AS A
SECOND
CLASS FIRE
SOLDIER, IT
WAS RUDE
OF ME TO
SPEAK
TO YOU
LIKE THAT,
CAPTAIN.
I APOLO-
GIZE.



HEY,
I'M
TRYING
TO BE
SERIOUS
HERE!!

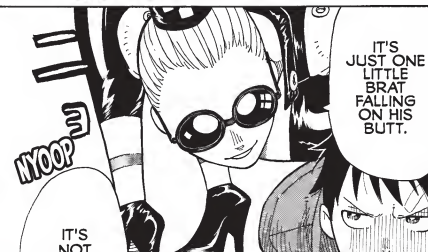
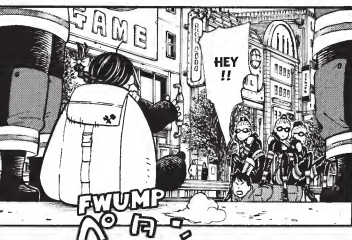


I
SAID,
LICK
IT.





DON'T
BE MEAN
TO HIM!!
HE SAVED
ME!!



IT'S
JUST ONE
LITTLE
BRAT
FALLING
ON HIS
BUTT.



FIRE
SOLDIERS
ARE SUP-
POSED TO
PROTECT
THE PEOPLE!!
WHAT IS
WRONG
WITH YOU
COMPANY 5
PEOPLE??!





ARE
YOU
FRICKIN'
KIDDING
ME?!!

FWOOM



GRR!



OHO.

FWOOOOSH

YOU
NEVER
TALK ABOUT
BURNING A
KID, EVEN
AS A JOKE.



I'M SHINRA
KUSAKABE,
SECOND CLASS
SOLDIER FROM
COMPANY 8.
AND I'M
CALLING
YOU OUT!

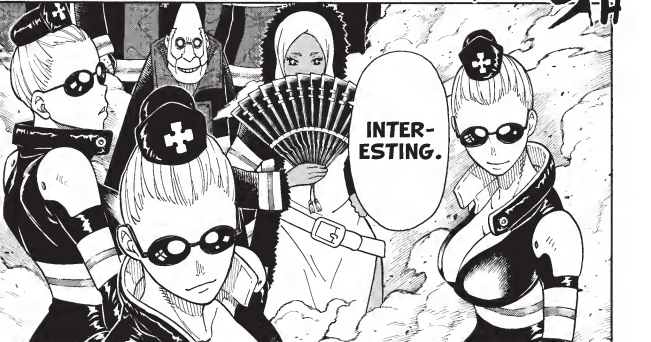


I'LL TEACH
YOU WHAT
IT REALLY
MEANS TO
BE A FIRE
SOLDIER.

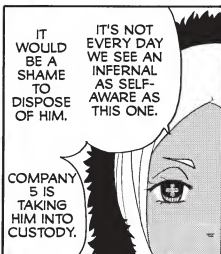
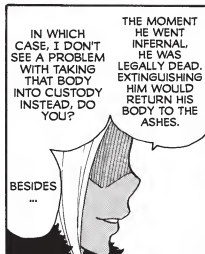
BRING
IT ON,
COMPANY
5!!

TOKYO.F

to to to H H



INTER-
ESTING.



AND I ASSUME
YOU'LL SHARE
THE RESULTS OF
THIS ANALYSIS
WITH US?

**BUT OF
COURSE!**

IT'S SUCH
AN UNUSUAL
SPECIMEN... IF
WE WANT TO GET
CLOSER TO SOLVING
THE MYSTERY OF
SPONTANEOUS
HUMAN COMBUSTION,
DON'T YOU THINK
YOU SHOULD LET MY
COMPANY TAKE IT IN
FOR ANALYSIS?

YOU'RE
A NEW
COMPANY.
I'VE HEARD
YOU DON'T
HAVE A
SCIENCE
TEAM YET.

TCH.

BUT...

LET'S GO.
WE'LL LET
COMPANY
5 TAKE
CARE OF
THIS.

LIAR!

BWOH
おっ

COMPANY 8
CAPTAIN, HA.

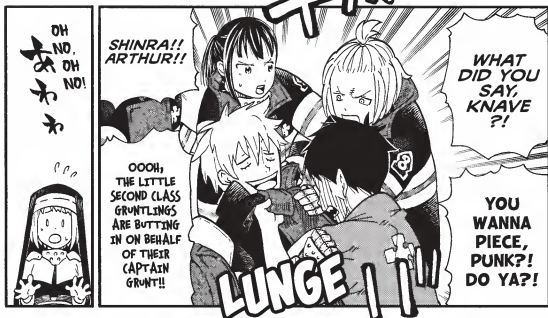
**MAJOR
LOSER-
VILLE.**

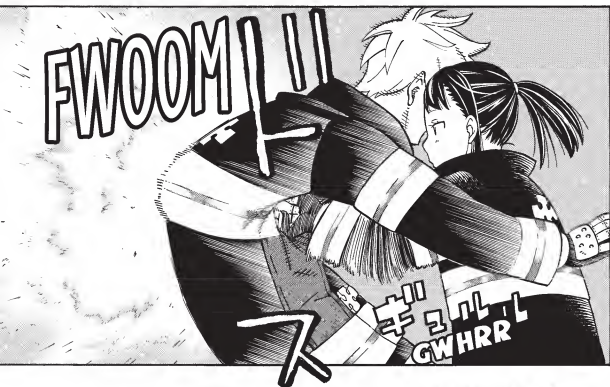
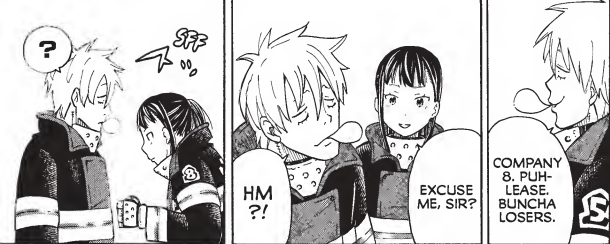
**HE'S JUST
A NON-
POWERED
GRUNT.**

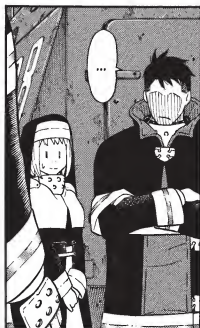
HUH?

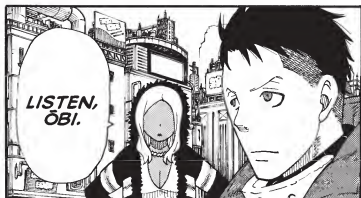
ZWEE
ずい

WHAT
A
LOSER.

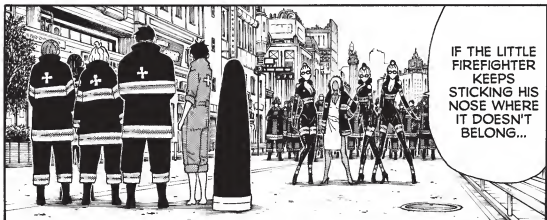








**LISTEN,
ŌBI.**



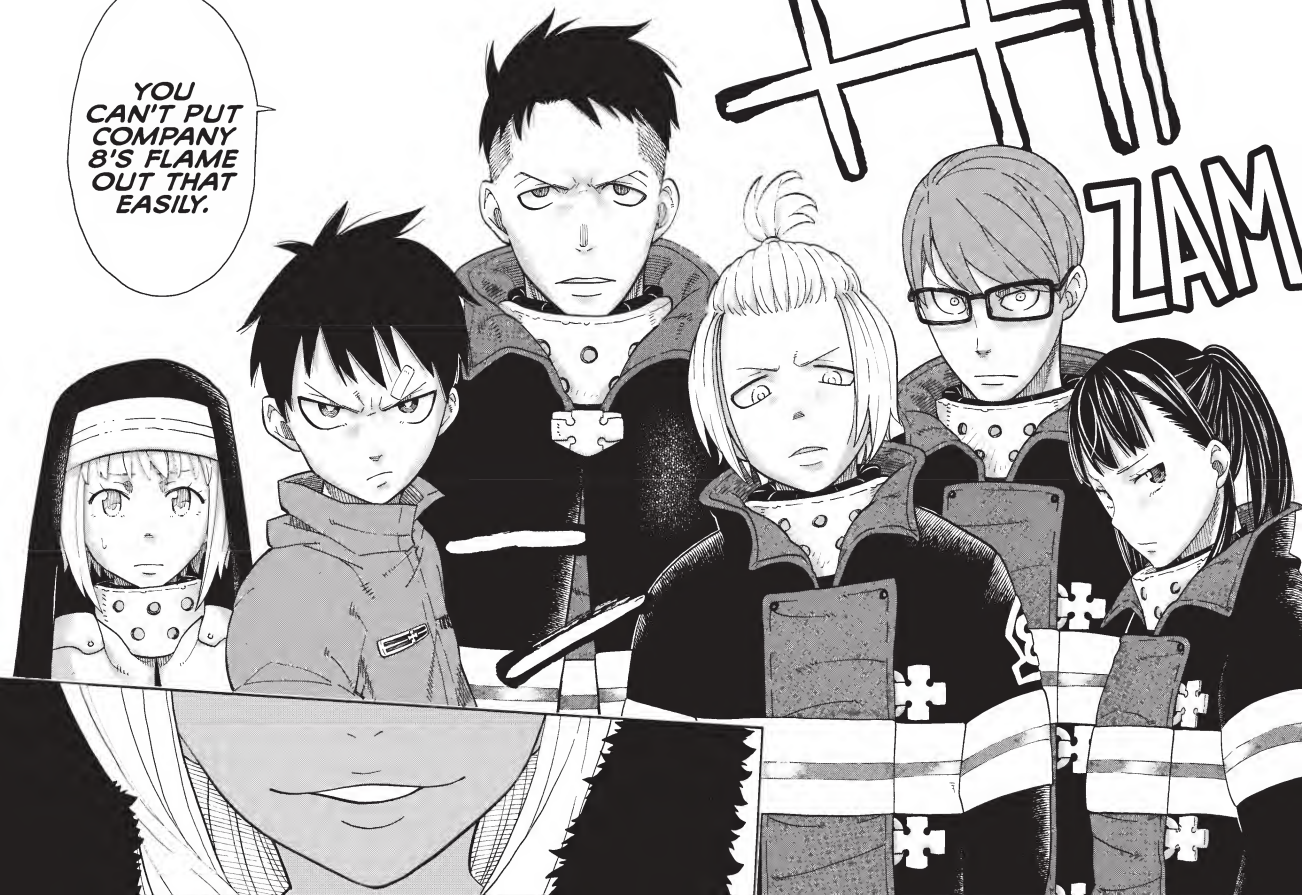
**IF THE LITTLE
FIREFIGHTER
KEEPS
STICKING HIS
NOSE WHERE
IT DOESN'T
BELONG...**

**I SEE. SO
YOU'RE
SAYING I'M
SMOKE
IN SOME
PEOPLE'S
NOSTRILS.
BUT...**

**...THEN HE
WILL BE
EXTINGUISHED
INSTEAD OF
THE FIRE.**

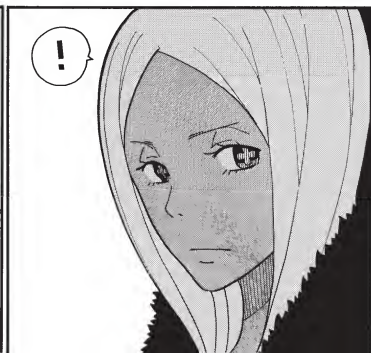
YOU
CAN'T PUT
COMPANY
8'S FLAME
OUT THAT
EASILY.

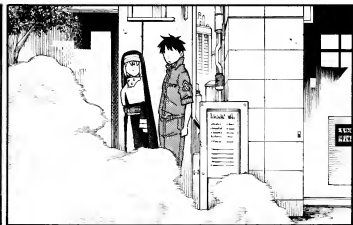
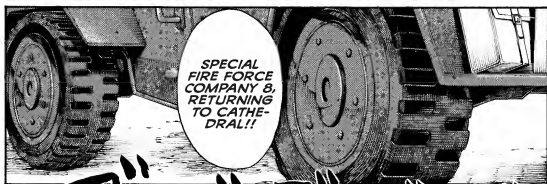
ZAM

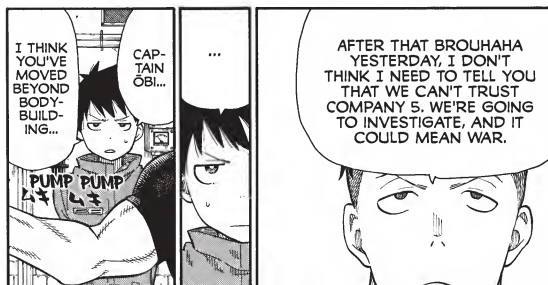
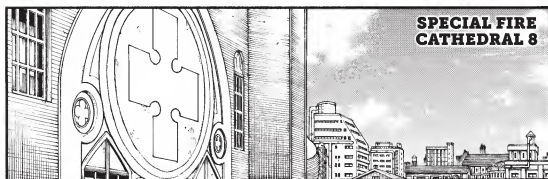
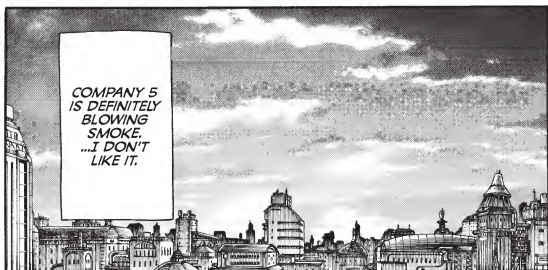


**FIRE
FORCE**

華林
CHAPTER XIII: STANDBY

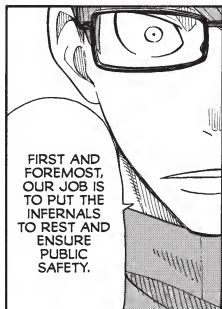




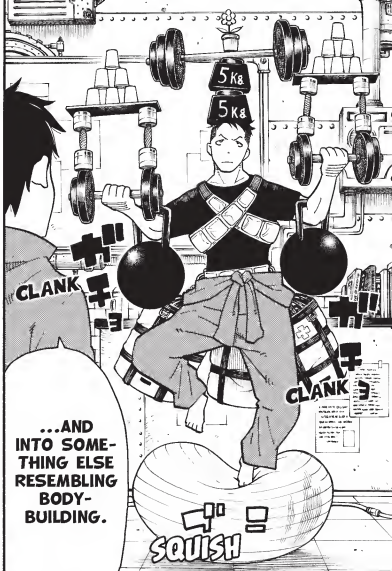




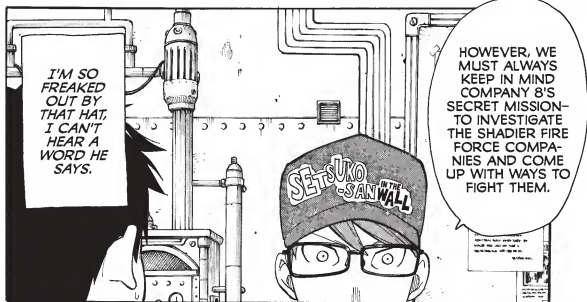
HINAWA!



FIRST AND FOREMOST, OUR JOB IS TO PUT THE INFERNALS TO REST AND ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.

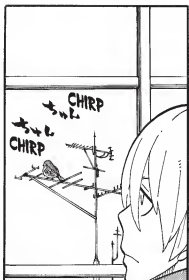
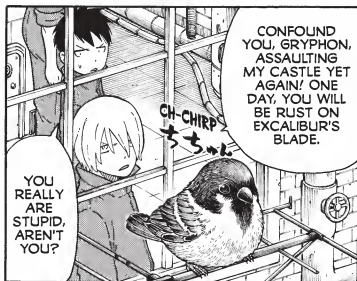


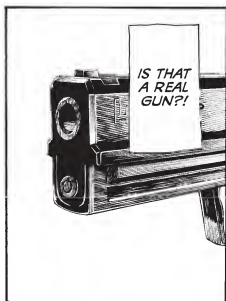
...AND INTO SOMETHING ELSE RESEMBLING BODY-BUILDING.



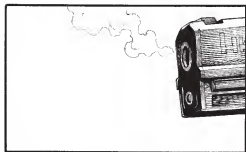
I'M SO FREAKED OUT BY THAT HAT, I CAN'T HEAR A WORD HE SAYS.

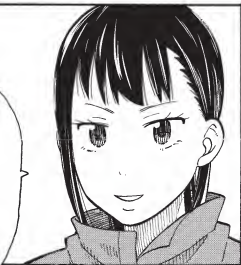
HOWEVER, WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND COMPANY 8'S SECRET MISSION- TO INVESTIGATE THE SHADIER FIRE FORCE COMPANIES AND COME UP WITH WAYS TO FIGHT THEM.











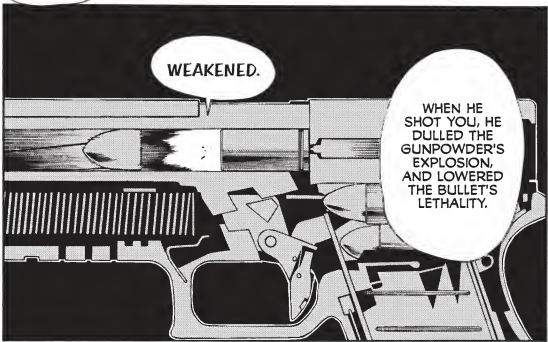
LIEUTENANT
HINAWA IS A
SECOND
GENERATION
LIKE ME. HE
CAN'T IGNITE
HIS OWN
FIRES, BUT HE
CAN CONTROL
FLAMES.



NO,
IT'S REAL.

IT HURT
PRETTY
BAD...
BUT I'M
FINE.

WHY?
IS THAT
AN AIR-
GUN?



WEAKENED.

WHEN HE
SHOT YOU, HE
DULLED THE
GUNPOWDER'S
EXPLOSION,
AND LOWERED
THE BULLET'S
LETHALITY.

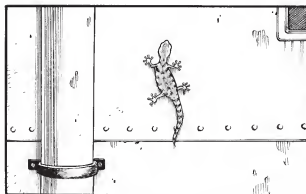


I KNOW
IT'S NOT
LETHAL,
BUT YOU'RE
SCARING
THE CRAP
OUT OF
ME, SIR!

BANG !!



UNLIKE INFERNALS,
WHEN YOU'RE UP
AGAINST SECOND
AND THIRD GENS...
YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
GOING TO PULL!!
AND WE'RE GOING
TO BE SEEING A
LOT OF THEM.



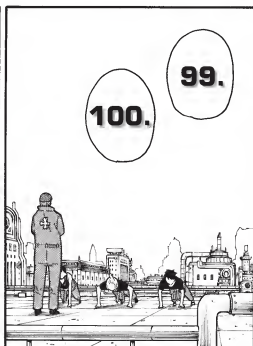
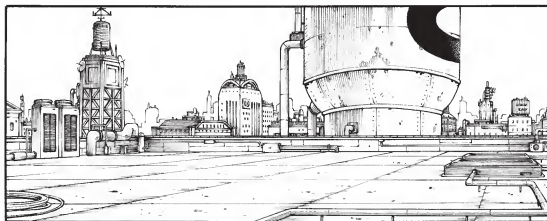
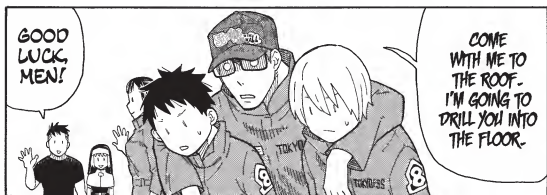
YOU'RE
ESPECIALLY
STUPID,
ARTHUR. GET
YOUR ACT
TOGETHER.

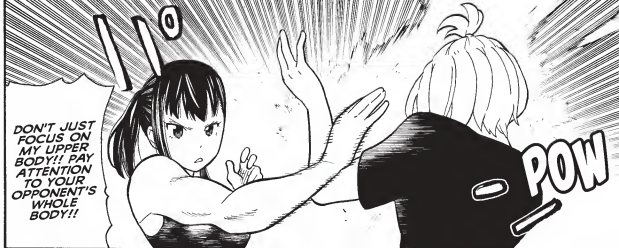
HEH.



*I AM A
MAN WHO
SLAYS
DRAGONS.*

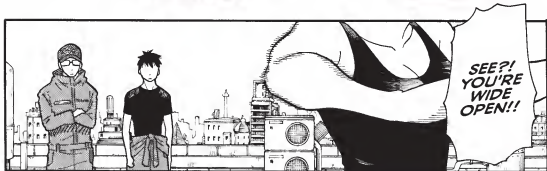
*YOU'LL
HAVE TO
FIND A
DRAGON
FIRST.*





**DON'T JUST
FOCUS ON
MY UPPER
BODY!! PAY
ATTENTION
TO YOUR
OPPONENT'S
WHOLE
BODY!!**

POW



**SEE?!
YOU'RE
WIDE
OPEN!!**

**THIRD GENERATION
FIRE SOLDIER PRINCESS
HIBANA. SHE APPEARED
OUT OF NOWHERE
AS A RECRUIT FROM
HAJIMA AND CLIMBED
HER WAY UP THROUGH
THE RANKS. THERE ARE
A LOT OF QUESTIONS
SURROUNDING THAT
WOMAN...**



**I DON'T CARE
IF THEY WERE
JOKING. I'M
NOT GONNA
STAND BY AND
LET COMPANY
5 TALK ABOUT
BURNING
CIVILIANS!!**

**WHO
IS THIS
"CAPTAIN
PRINCESS,"
ANYWAY
?!**





SO YOU'RE SAYING SHE MIGHT HAVE FOUND OUT WHAT'S CAUSING THE SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION?!

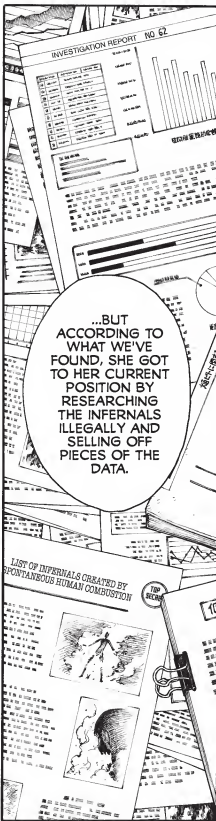


I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THE DATA—I JUST WANNA CRUSH COMPANY 5.

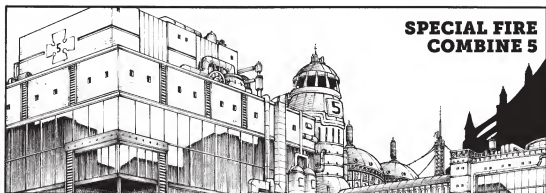


AT THE VERY LEAST, SHE KNOWS SOMETHING BIG ENOUGH TO TURN A NOBODY INTO A CAPTAIN OVERNIGHT.

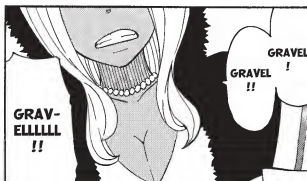
AND WE'RE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GET OUR HANDS ON IT—WE'LL STORM THEIR BASE IF WE HAVE TO!! YOUR FEET AND ARTHUR'S PLASMA SHOULD COME IN HANDY.



...BUT ACCORDING TO WHAT WE'VE FOUND, SHE GOT TO HER CURRENT POSITION BY RESEARCHING THE INFERNALS ILLEGALLY AND SELLING OFF PIECES OF THE DATA.



**SPECIAL FIRE
COMBINE 5**



GRAV-
ELLLLLL
!!

GRAVEL
GRAVEL
!!



STOP...
PLEASE!

NO...
NO MORE
...



SILENCE!! I'M
NOT TALKING
TO YOU-I'M
TALKING TO
YOUR BODY!!
NOW TELL ME
SOMETHING I
DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THE
INFERNALS!!

YOU ARE
GRAVEL!
EVERYONE
IS GRAVEL!!
AND YOU WILL
PAVE THE
WAY TO MY
HAPPINESS!
GRAVEL
DUST!!

GRRGH

GRRGH

GRRGH

GRRGH

YEEAAAARRGH!!

LIKE I CARE, YOU
PIECE OF DUNG!! KEEP
SCREAMING, GRUNT,
AND LIE ON THE
GROUND, BENEATH THE
BEAUTIFUL, POWERFUL
PRINCESS!!

GRAVEL!!

WAA
AH!! I
CAN'T-!!
I CAN'T
HOLD
IT IN!!

SHUDDER

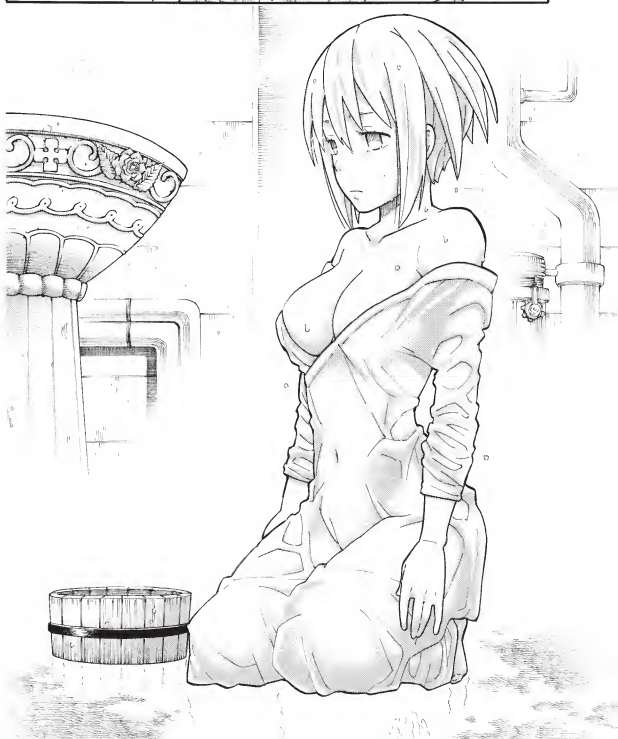
SHUDDER

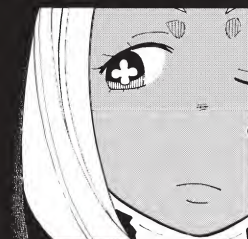
SHUDDER

SHUDDER

AH
HA
ha!
HA
AA!

GRIND
GRIND
GRIND





SHINRA
WENT TO THE
COURTYARD.
APPARENTLY
HE LEFT
SOMETHING
THERE.

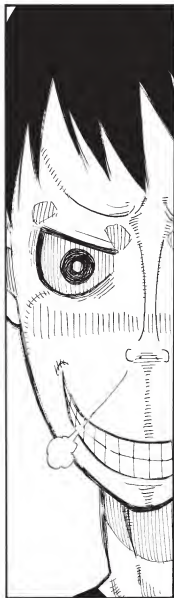
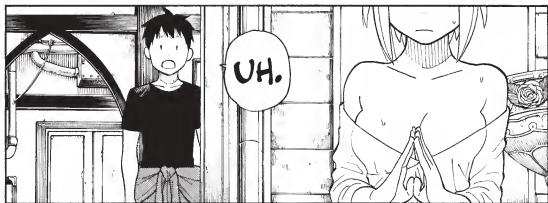


BUT SISTER
IRIS IS
DOING AN
ABLUTION
IN THE
COURT-
YARD!

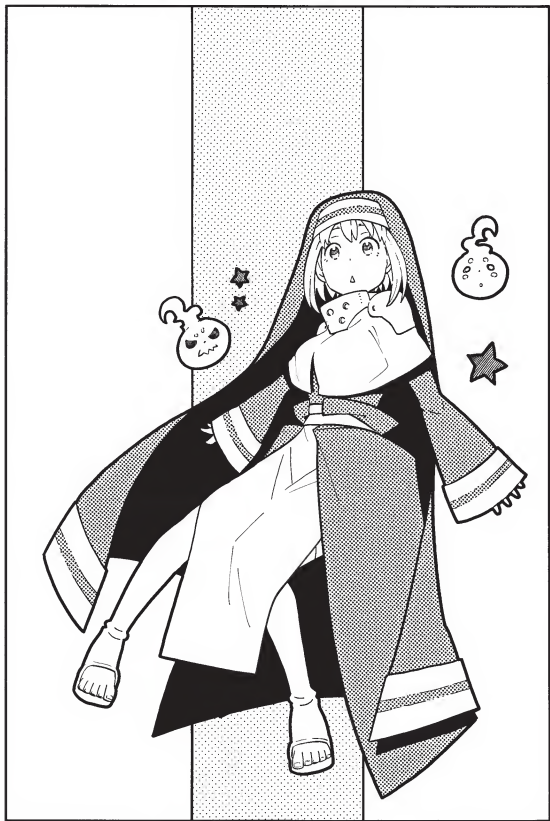
WHAT
...?

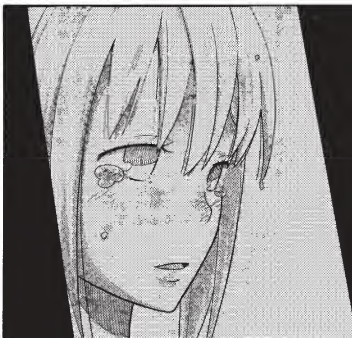
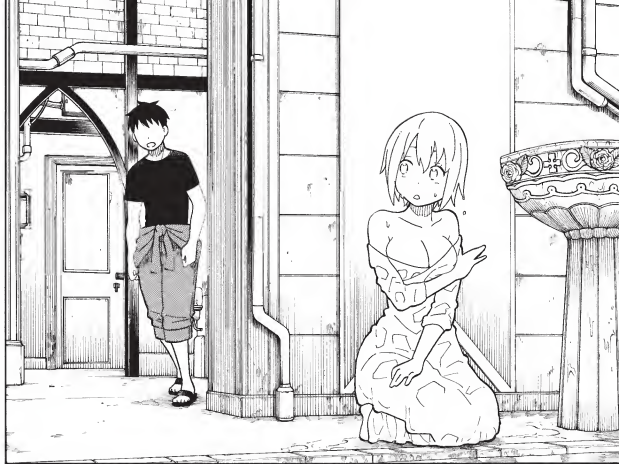


YOUR
TURN,
SHINRA.



CHAPTER XIV: THE HOLY WOMAN'S RESOLVE







OH...
NO, IT WAS
MY FAULT.
I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
MORE
CAREFUL.



I'M
REALLY
SORRY
!!



WHAT IS
SHE, AN
ANGEL?!
SHE'S SO
NICE.

THANK
YOU,
SISTER!

STAY SAFE
IN YOUR
TRAINING.



IS
SOME-
THING
BOTH-
ERING
YOU?

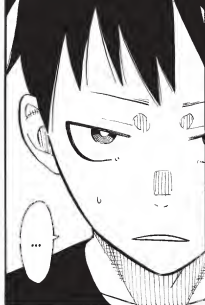


OH!! UM,
SISTER
IRIS...

WELL,
EXCUSE
ME
THEN.

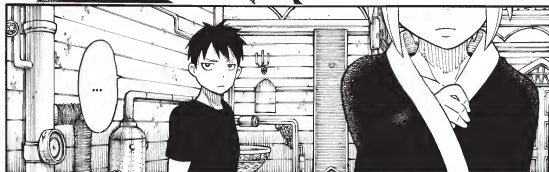


?



THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
CONCERN.

==
SMILE

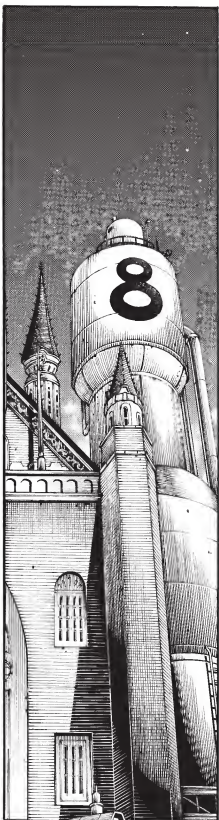


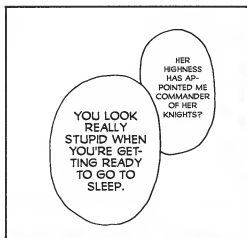


DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN
BETWEEN
HER AND
COMPANY
5?

THAT
SMILE
WAS NOT
NATURAL.

AS A
GUY
WHO'S
ALWAYS
SMILING
WEIRD,
I CAN
TELL.





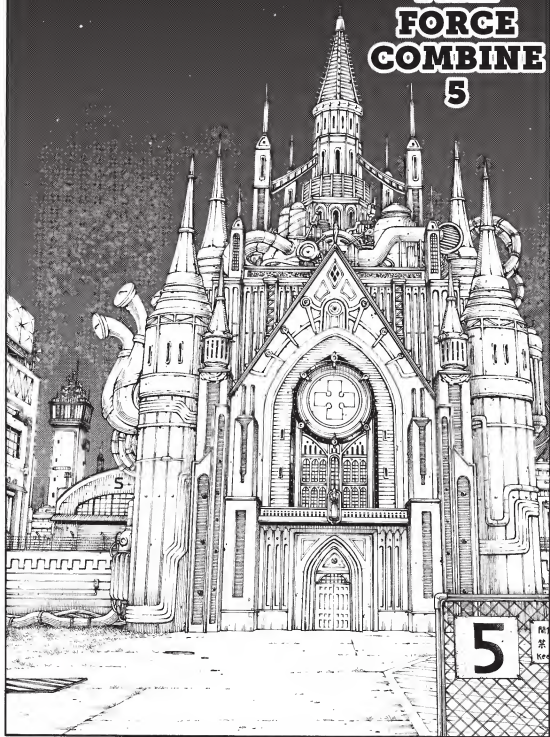




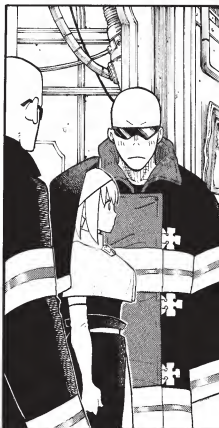
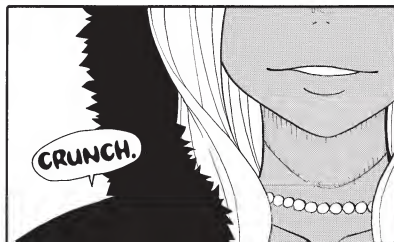
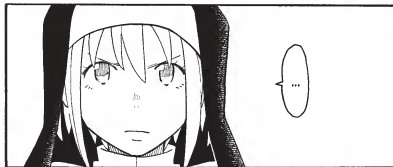
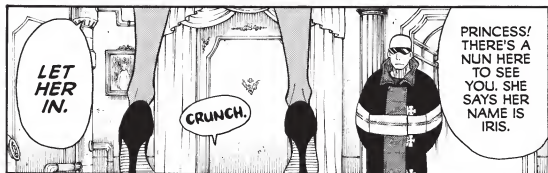
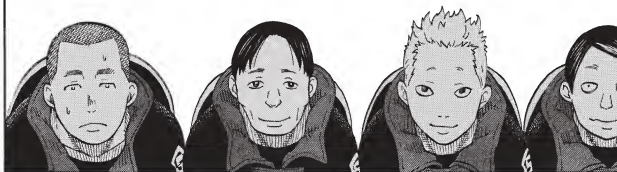
EXCUSE ME!

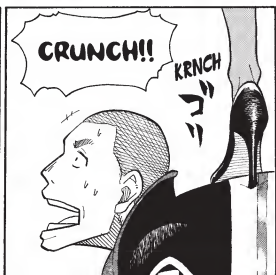
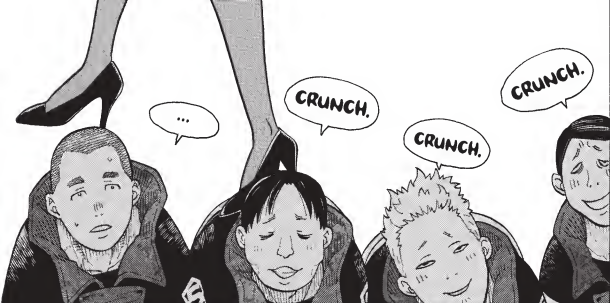


**SPECIAL
FIRE
FORCE
COMBINE
5**



!!







MY
DEAR
HAVE-
NOT.

CAN I
HELP
YOU?



AND IT'S
BLASPHEMY!
YOUR RE-
SEARCH IS IN
OPEN DEFIANCE
OF THE GREAT
SUN GOD'S
WILL! IS THAT
REALLY WHAT
YOU WANT,
NE-SAN?!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING...
BUT IT'S
DANGEROUS,
ISN'T IT?!



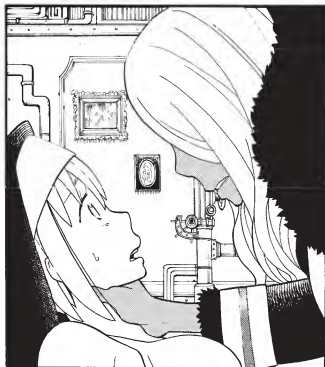
CLAMP

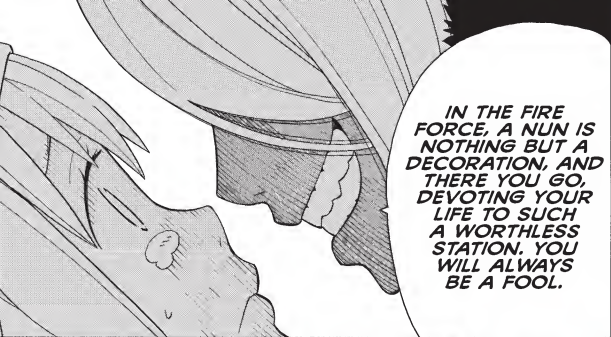


NE-
SAN...!

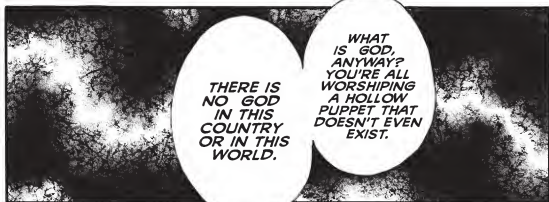
CLACK CLACK

DON'T WEAR A HABIT IN FRONT OF ME !!





**IN THE FIRE
FORCE, A NUN IS
NOTHING BUT A
DECORATION, AND
THERE YOU GO,
DEVOTING YOUR
LIFE TO SUCH
A WORTHLESS
STATION. YOU
WILL ALWAYS
BE A FOOL.**

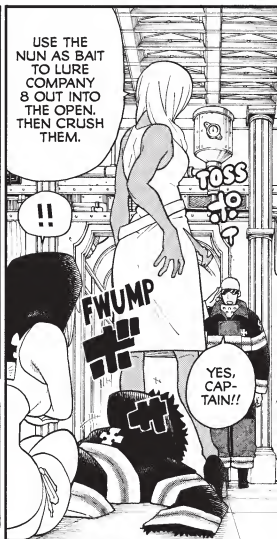
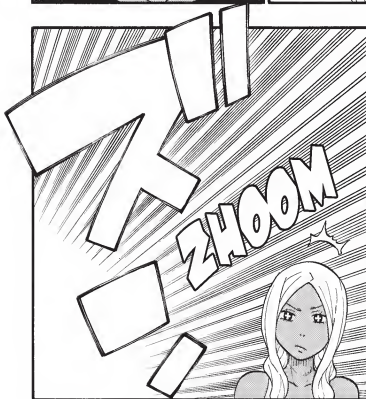
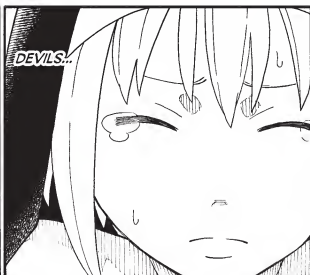


**THERE IS
NO GOD
IN THIS
COUNTRY
OR IN THIS
WORLD.**

**WHAT
IS GOD,
ANYWAY?
YOU'RE ALL
WORSHIPING
A HOLLOW
PUPPET THAT
DOESN'T EVEN
EXIST.**



**THERE ARE
ONLY DEVILS
LIKE ME.**





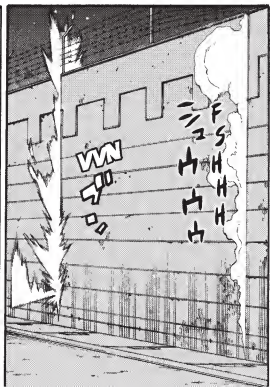
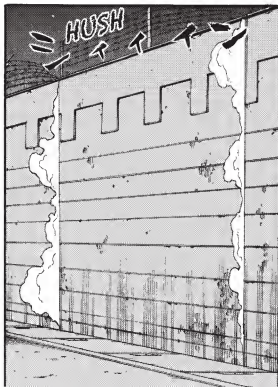
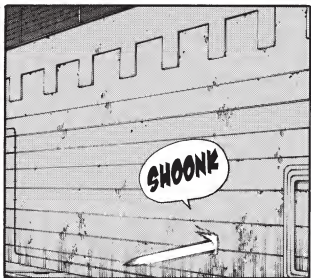
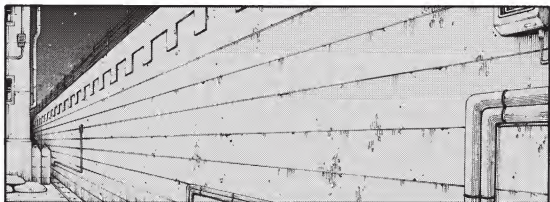


I'M FIND-
THE-NUN-
AND-CRUSH-
COMPANY-
5-MAN!!

I'M
FROM
COMPANY
8.

ZA-BING
E

CHAPTER XV: THE BATTLE BEGINS

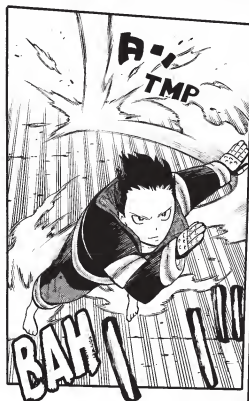


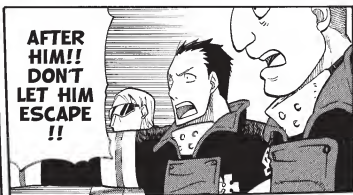
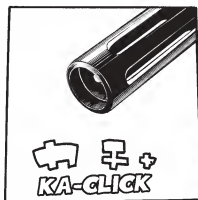
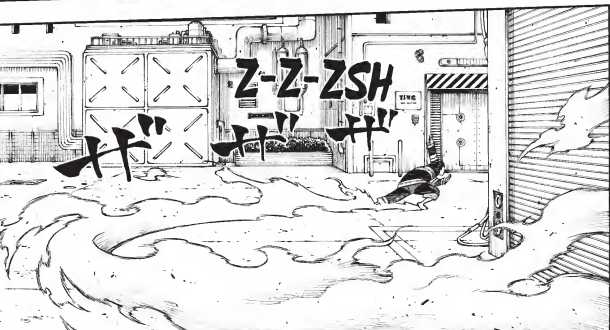


THE LOW-LIFES OF COMPANY 5 HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH HERE FOR AGES. IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST REPORT THEM.









DON'T
THINK YOU
CAN RUN
FROM MY
DISCIPLINE.

BANG

VELOCITY
CONTROL!

GWAAH
!!

HE'S
OPENED
FIRE!!

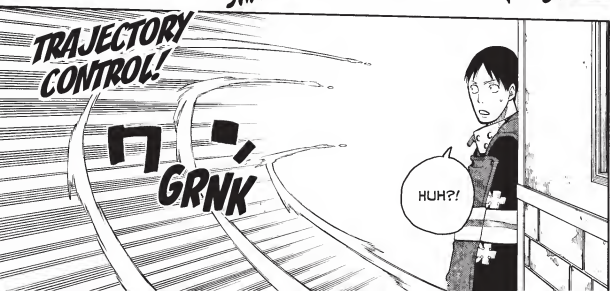
HIDE!!



IT'S
NO
USE
HIDING.

ARE YOU
ENJOYING
THIS?

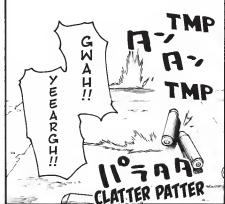
GUNS ARE
MEANT TO
BE POINTED
AT PEOPLE.



TRAJECTORY
CONTROL!

GRNK

HUH?!

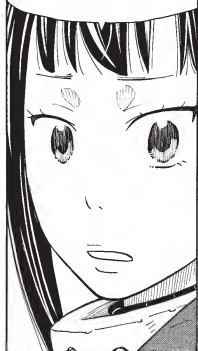


I LEFT THE MILITARY AGAINST MY FATHER'S WISHES BECAUSE I WOULD RATHER SAVE PEOPLE THAN FIGHT THEM. THAT'S WHY I JOINED THE FIRE FORCE. ...SO I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON MAN-TO-MAN COMBAT...

YOU START KNOCKING HEADS, TOO, MAKI. WE'LL KNOCK THEIR HEADS UNTIL THE LOCATION OF THE SHC DATA FALLS OUT.

THAT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T JOIN THE SPECIAL FIRE FORCE—I JOINED CAPTAIN ŌBI. I CAME TO COMPANY 8 BECAUSE THERE ARE IDIOTS IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO WON'T LISTEN TO REASON AND I WANTED TO KNOCK SOME HEADS.

NOT THAT THIS IS ANYTHING NEW, BUT SOMETIMES I THINK YOU SHOW MORE MERCY TO THE INFERNALS THAN TO REGULAR PEOPLE, LIEUTENANT.









I BLOW SOME
FLAMMABLE
GAS INTO MY
OXYGEN-FREE
GUM!!

BWEE ㄣ ㄣ
BWEE ㄣ ㄣ



SEND THE
BUBBLE
OVER TO THE
ENEMY!!

BWEE ㄣ ㄣ
BWEE ㄣ ㄣ

TAKE
COVER,
SIR!! I'LL
HANDLE
THIS!!

HERE
COMES
ANOTHER
ONE.



K
A
B
O
O
M
!!

AND POP IT!
WHEN THE
GAS INSIDE
GETS FRESH
OXYGEN...

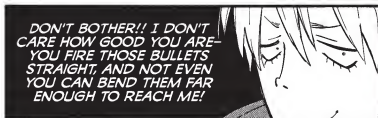
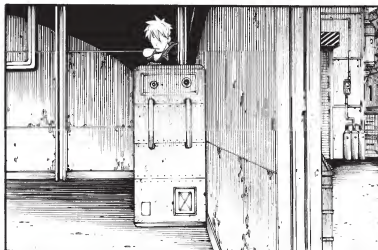
ㄣ P
O S
O H
H
ㄣ

**THAT
IS THE
POWER
OF TÔRU
KISHIRI!**

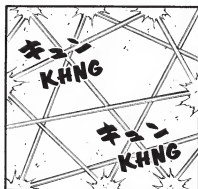
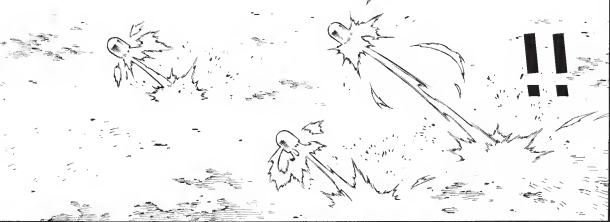
**THE
POWER OF
BACKDRAFT
BUBBLISH
GUM!!!**

BINOH



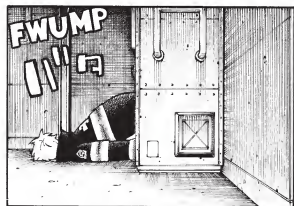
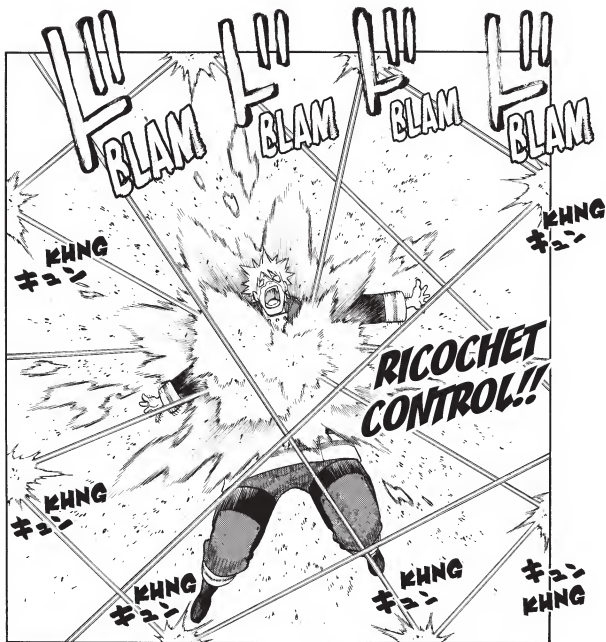


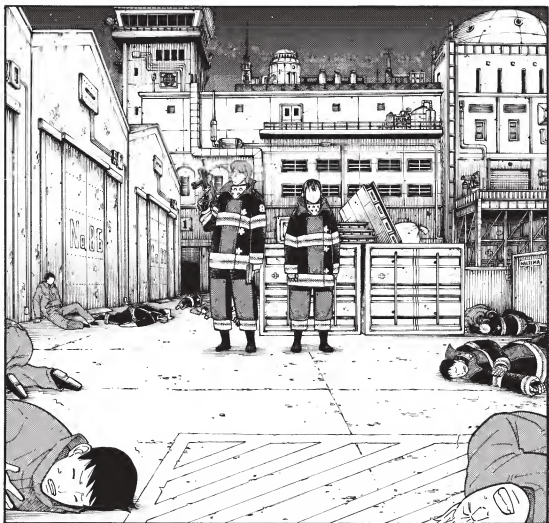




WITH THE
SPARKS
FROM THE
IMPACT, I
ALTER THE
BULLETS
AGAIN.

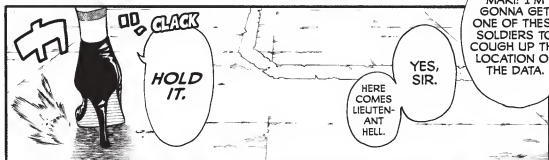






PATHETIC...
IT WOULD
TAKE A LOT
MORE THAN
THIS TO GET
COMPANY
8 ROOKIES
TO ADMIT
DEFEAT.

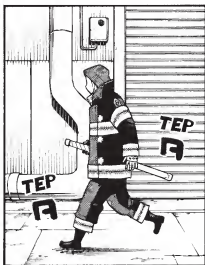






I'M
SUPPOSED
TO GO AFTER
SHINRA, BUT
THE ONE THING
THAT DEVIL
IS GOOD AT
IS RUNNING
AWAY...

I DON'T
SEE HIDE
OR HAIR
OF HIM...



ARE YOU
FOLLOWING
THE DEVIL'S
FOOTPRINTS,
TOO? YOU'RE
FROM
COMPANY 8,
CORRECT?

HO HO.

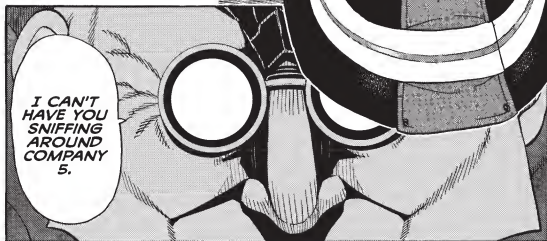
++
ZSH !!

THE
DEVIL'S
FOOT-
PRINTS
INDEED...



SO YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE DEVIL, TOO?

HOHO HO HO HO.



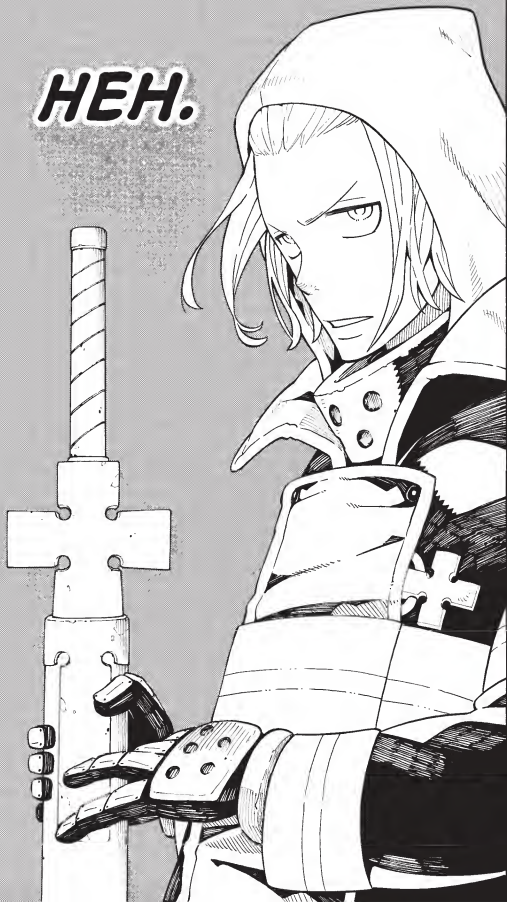


WE
MEET AGAIN,
MANSAYER...
BY MY SWORD,
YOU WILL... BY
MY SWORD...
MY SWORD
WILL...

WE'VE INCREASED
THIS INFERNAL'S
FIREPOWER BY
ADMINISTERING
THE DRUG
WE'VE BEEN
RESEARCHING.
...FINDING SUCH
AN EXCELLENT
TEST SUBJECT
HAS PUT ME IN
WONDERFUL
MOOD.

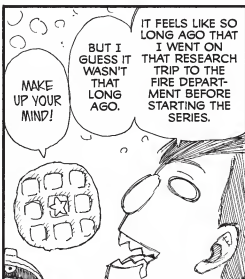
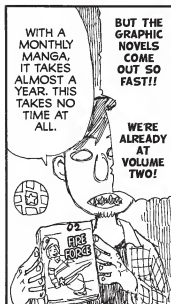
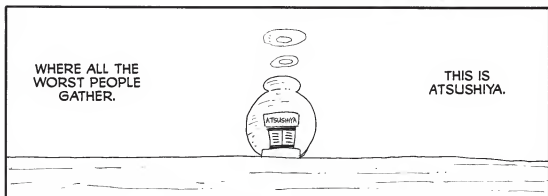
I'M
GONNA
KILL
...

HEH.





TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3!!



I GOT TO
ACTUALLY
WEAR REAL
BUNKER
GEAR

AND!

AND I SAW
THEIR SPARKLY
RED FIRE
ENGINE,
RIGHT

I TALKED
WITH REAL
LIVE FIRE-
FIGHTERS,
RIGHT

♪

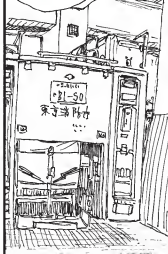
♪

♪

ヤシキ
SNAP
ヤシキ
SNAP
ヤシキ
SNAP

AND I TOOK
LOTS AND LOTS
OF PICTURES
OF MYSELF TO
REMEMBER
THE OCCASION

♪



Sign: Tokyo Fire Department

BUT THERE'S NOT
A LOT OF REAL
FIREFIGHTING IN THIS
MANGA. WAS THERE
REALLY ANY REASON
FOR YOU TO VISIT?

IT
WAS SO
MUCH
FUN

♪

THIS IS
ATSUSHIYA.

YOU
DON'T
NEED A
REASON
TO VISIT
HERE.
PLEASE
COME
AGAIN!!

SO YOU
WERE
JUST
GETTING
IN THE
WAY!!

IT WAS
REALLY
FUN?

COME
ON!! WAS
THERE A
REASON?

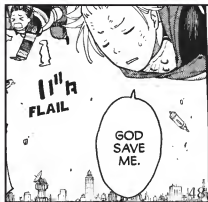
YEAH!!

HM?

Translation Notes:

God save me, page 48

The resigned look on Arthur's face tells the reader that he doesn't expect a miraculous rescue—he hopes that God will save his soul and take him to heaven after he dies. It may also have the connotation of, "God save me from myself; if I survive this, I am going to kill someone." Incidentally, in the original Japanese text, he says *namu-san*, which is a short Buddhist prayer asking for salvation of the soul, but is also used more as an expression of surprise, anger, etc., in the vein of, "Good heavens!" or "Dash it all!"



Captain and Lieutenant, page 66

To be precise, Hinawa is a *chūtaichō*, or commander of a medium-sized unit. Captain Ōbi's lament is that Company 8 isn't big enough to be divided into medium-sized sub-companies, which makes Hinawa's title superfluous. Incidentally, Ōbi's title is *daitaichō*, which makes him the commander of a large unit.



Bobcat, page 93

If Miyamoto knows this woman's name, it's unlikely that he cares what it is. Instead, he uses her haircut to identify her. The Japanese word for this hairstyle is *kappa*, which is also a creature from folklore that lives in rivers and performs mischief of



varying levels of evil. So he calls her *mesu-gappa*, or “female kappa.” The translators attempted to capture the animal nature of the nickname by rendering his epithet as “Bobcat.”

Shinrider Kick, page 102

A popular hero from Sunday-morning children's programming is *Kamen Rider*, or “Masked Rider.” Like the Power Rangers, he exists in many incarnations, and has been around for decades. He wears an insect-style masked costume, rides a motorcycle, and fights monsters. Shinra would be especially fond of him, because it's easy to connect his own name to the name “Rider,” hence “Shinrider Kick.”



Smoke in people's nostrils, page 133

The translators confess that they made this idiom up. In Japanese, the word used was *kemutagaru*, which literally means “to behave as if there is smoke,” and refers either to someone who is sensitive to smoke, or to someone who finds someone or something to be an annoyance. In other words, there are people who are not entirely fond of Ōbi's presence—they are as fond of him, perhaps, as they would be of having the stench of smoke in their nostrils.



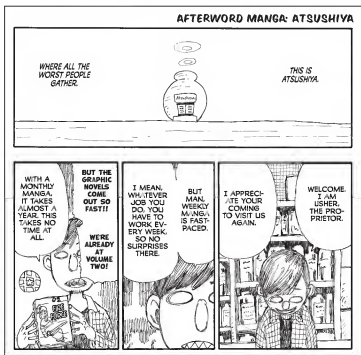
Nē-san , page 154

Here Iris reveals that she is no stranger to Princess Hibana by referring to her as *nē-san*, which means "older sister," and is a perfectly acceptable nickname. This particular *nē-san* is written with a character that indicates that they are not sisters by blood, but that they have become sisters through some social contract.



Weekly manga vs. monthly manga, page 196

Before manga comes out in the lovely graphic novel form you have in your hands (unless you're reading it digitally), each chapter is published individually in a manga magazine. As the reader can deduce, some of these magazines are on a weekly schedule, while others hit stores monthly. Because of the fast pace, weekly manga tends to come in shorter chapters, but nevertheless, it doesn't take long for there to be enough material to fill a whole volume. Volumes of *Fire Force* came out in Japan approximately every two months.



FIRE FORCE

FIRE FORCE

SHINRA KUSAKABE

AFFILIATION:
SPECIAL FIRE
FORCE COMPANY 8

RANK:
SECOND CLASS
SOLDIER

ABILITY:
THIRD GENERATION PYROKINETIC
EMITS FIRE FROM HIS FEET



Height	173 cm [5'8"]
Weight	67 kg [148 lbs]
Age	17 years
Birthday	October 29
Sign	Scorpio
Bloodtype	AB
Nickname	The Devil's Footprints
Self-Proclaimed	Hero
Favorite Foods	Ramen Hamburgers Fried Chicken
Least Favorite Food	None
Favorite Music	Anything fast and awesome.
Favorite Animal	Leopard Anything fast
Favorite Color	Red
Favorite Type of Girl	Pretty girls
Who He Respects	Commander Ōbi His mother
Who He Has Trouble Around	Pretty girls Arthur
Who He's Afraid Of	The Lieutenant
Hobbies	Soccer Futsal
Daily Workout	Breakdancing
Dream	To become a hero
Shoe Size	27 cm [10]
Eyesight	2.0 [20/10]
Favorite Subject	Math
Least Favorite Subject	Language Arts

ARTHUR BOYLE

AFFILIATION:
SPECIAL FIRE
FORCE COMPANY 8

RANK:
SECOND CLASS
SOLDIER

ABILITY:
THIRD GENERATION PYROKINETIC
EMITS A BLADE OF FLAME FROM
THE HILT OF HIS SWORD



Height	174cm [5'9"]
Weight	64kg [141 lbs.]
Age	17 years
Birthday	July 10
Sign	Cancer
Bloodtype	A
Nickname	Stupid
Self-Proclaimed	Knight King
Favorite Foods	Court Cuisine (has never had any) The ramen Captain Ōbi buys him
Least Favorite Food	Horse meat sashimi
Favorite Music	Court Music (has never heard any)
Favorite Animal	Horse
Favorite Color	White, Blue
Favorite Type of Girl	A girl who looks good in glass slippers and a tiara
Who He Respects	King Arthur
Who He Has Trouble Around	No one
Who He's Afraid Of	No one
Hobbies	Building model castles
Daily Workout	Sword practice
Dream	To be the Knight King
Shoe Size	26cm [9]
Eyesight	1.5 [20/12.5]
Favorite Subject	Physical Education
Least Favorite Subject	Everything taught in the classroom

DON'T MISS THE MOST ACCLAIMED ACTION MANGA OF 2013!

"Gripping doesn't begin to describe Vinland Saga. 5 stars."
—ICv2

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—Anime News Network

"The art is gorgeous, a combination of beautiful cartooning and realistic backgrounds. Yukimura is also a master of pacing, both in frenetic battle scenes and charged emotional moments."
—Faith Erin Hicks, *Friends With Boys*

"For those who love Berserk, you'll love this too... Worth the long wait."
—A Case Suitable for Treatment

"It will be impossible to stop watching this story unfold."
—Japan Media Arts Awards jury

KODANSHA
COMICS

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AUTHOR OF "PLANETES"

VINLAND SAGA

AVAILABLE NOW IN HARDCOVER

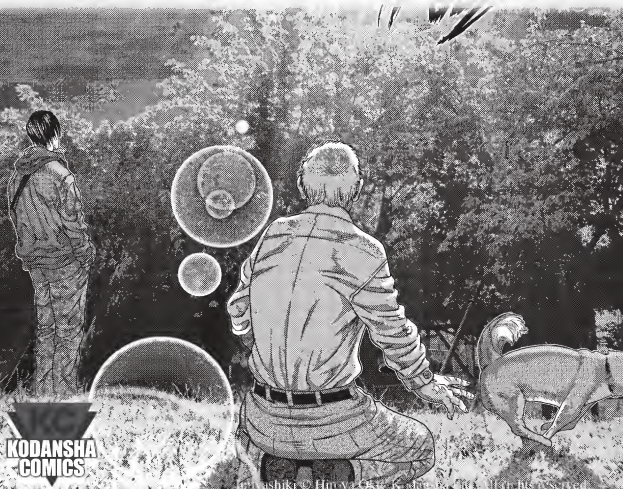
INUYASHIKI

**A superhero like none
you've ever seen, from the
creator of "Gantz"!**

ICHIRO INUYASHIKI IS DOWN ON HIS LUCK. HE LOOKS MUCH OLDER THAN HIS 58 YEARS, HIS CHILDREN DESPISE HIM, AND HIS WIFE THINKS HE'S A USELESS COWARD. SO WHEN HE'S DIAGNOSED WITH STOMACH CANCER AND GIVEN THREE MONTHS TO LIVE, IT SEEMS THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL MISS HIM IS HIS DOG.

THEN A BLINDING LIGHT FILLS THE SKY, AND THE OLD MAN IS KILLED... ONLY TO WAKE UP LATER IN A BODY HE ALMOST RECOGNIZES AS HIS OWN. CAN IT BE THAT ICHIRO INUYASHIKI IS NO LONGER HUMAN?

COMES IN EXTRA-LARGE EDITIONS WITH COLOR PAGES!



**KODANSHA
COMICS**

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PRAISE FOR THE ANIME!

"This series never fails to
put a smile on my face."

-Dramatic Reviews

"A very funny look at what happens when
two strange and strangely well-suited people
try to navigate the thorny path to true love
together."

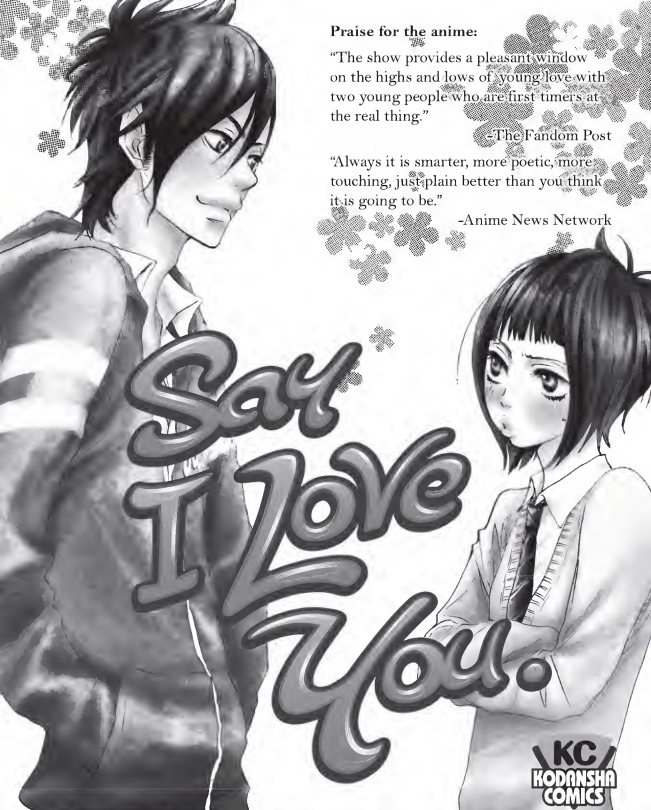
-Anime News Network



My Little Monster

OPPOSITES ATTRACT...MAYBE?

Haru Yoshida is feared as an unstable and violent "monster." Mizutani Shizuku is a grade-obsessed student with no friends. Fate brings these two together to form the most unlikely pair. Haru firmly believes he's in love with Mizutani and she firmly believes he's insane.



Praise for the anime:

"The show provides a pleasant window on the highs and lows of young love with two young people who are first timers at the real thing."

-The Fandom Post

"Always it is smarter, more poetic, more touching, just plain better than you think it is going to be."

-Anime News Network

Say
I Love
You.

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

Mei Tachibana has no friends — and says she doesn't need them!

But everything changes when she accidentally roundhouse kicks the most popular boy in school! However, Yamato Kurosawa isn't angry in the slightest — in fact, he thinks his ordinary life could use an unusual girl like Mei. But winning Mei's trust will be a tough task. How long will she refuse to say, "I love you"?

Fire Force 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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